St. Tammany Farmer.

"The Blessings of Government, Like the Dew from Heaven, Should Descend Alike Upon the Rich and the Poor."

W. .G KENTZEL, Editor. COVINGTON, ST. TAMMANY PARISH, LA., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1889. VOL. XIV.—NO. 48.

IT PASTE TO BE POSTED.

At a very swell reception
I met a charming maid,
Who on my heart susceptive
A deep impression made.
Her snowy fingers sparkled
With jewels rich and rare,
And diamonds by the dozen
Scintillated in her hair.

We had an introduction,
Joined in a tete-a-tete,
And ere our chat was finished
I thought I'd met my fate.
I felt an inclination
My passion to declare,
I loved so well to dwell on
Those diamonds in her hair.

Then came a chance acquaintance,
Who knew the maiden fair,
And told me of those brilliants
So far beyond compare.
Said he: "They're imitation!"
I fled in grim despair;
Since then I've shunned the damsel
With rhinestones in her hair.
—F. B. Welch, in Jewelers' Weekly.

ENGLISH ARMY LIFE.

Scenes and Incidents Along the Paths of Glory.

Jolly Young Subalterns Who Never Miss Any Fun and Never Pay a Cent —Little to Do and Little to Get.

The road to a commission in the British army leads through the Sandhurst Military College—England's West Point—which is romantically situated in Surrey. Having gained admission to this portal by dint of passing a more or less creditable examination at the hands of the Civil-Service Commissioners, the juvenile "gentleman cadet," as he is euphoniously termed, is instructed for a year, or a year and a half, according to his capabilities, in the elements of the various branches of military science, at the end of which probationary period he is gazetted to a regiment of cavalry or infantry, having a choice of regiments, according to his position in the final examination.

Sandhurst is a place looked upon with various feelings by those who have, at an early stage of their careers, participated in its slightly dubious joys. Recollections of the "toshing" of objectionable or bumptious aspirants to military glory—the operation consisting in the slinging, head downwards, of the hapless "toshee" to the head of his cot, and literally sluicing him with cold water—the frequent drills, incessant study and school-boy restrictions such as compulsory bed at nine o'clock during the first term. The proud sensation of emerging from the rank of "snooker" (a cadet in his first half year), the annual ball and many other memories, are either treasured or detested, as the possessor was a popular fellow, or the reverse. It is a place where a man very soon finds his level; the inane scion of the "noble" house of Bareacres is toshed with as little ceremony, and, if any thing, more zest, than the hope of the Manchester magnate. The army is no respecter of persons, and if a man is a gentleman in himself he is valued and liked, and taken by his companions for what they find him.

The final ordeal being successfully passed, the youthful subaltern proceeds on two months' leave of absence, presumably granted by a paternal government to allow him to be photographed in every conceivable attitude and uniform—during which period he provides himself with a kit, costing $500 or $600, if his election be the line, more than treble that sum if the cavalry, and, having been duly admired by his various feminine acquaintances, repairs at its expiration to the headquarters of his regiment, and duly reports his arrival. Now begins the real pleasure of existence; handed over to the tender mercies of a drill sergeant, he, in company with several raw recruits, plods painfully through the amazing intricacies of the English drill book. Finally the adjutant pronounces him fully disciplined, and he emerges in all the splendor of a full-blown officer. Quarters, fuel and light—of sorts—are provided by the powers that be, the contents of the first being invariably a barrack bed, fender and table, with two ancient wooden chairs of surprising hardness and discomfort; a dilapidated bellows and ragged hearth brush complete the "furniture," which is duly set forth and registered on an inventory board placed under his care. However, with the aid of his soldier-servant and the barrack supply store, he rapidly evolves a very snug and cheerful domicile, hiring the goods he fancies at a more or less—usually more—extortionate monthly rate.

His inner man is provided for at the mess, where every thing is "done" in the best possible manner, comfort and luxury being studied in the most minute details. There is but one drawback, the monthly mess bill, that bugbear of the junior officer, living like a Prince on the munificent stipend of a dollar and thirty cents per diem, plus the allowance, averaging five hundred dollars a year, made him by his relatives. How it is done is inexplicable; the writer never understood how he did it himself, but it is, nevertheless, a fact that the youthful sub. is always well dressed, does pretty nearly every thing in the way of amusement he wants to, lives like a lord, goes everywhere, denies himself nothing, and never seems in want of money, on an income of little or nothing per annum! He has the entree into the best society, and is looked upon with much favor by the charming demoiselles with whom he comes in contact, so much so, that a good match (from the man's point of view) has proved the salvation of many a spendthrift son of Mars. Mars and Venus have always been the best of friends, if mythology may be relied on, and "scarlet fever" will doubtless play havoc among beauty's ranks till the arrival of the millenium. The brilliant uniform—costly, alas, as many a lengthy blue document, and many a lengthier and bluer father's face, can testify—is a passport to the female heart.

A soldier's life can not be considered an arduous one; morning parade, a couple of hour's drill through the week and a tour of duty as "Officer of the Day" comprise the sum of his labors. In the drill season, however, there are eternal field days, drills, maneuvers and inspections, preparatory to that great annual event, the visit of the commander-in-chief. Then the welcome winter, bringing leave and freedom for two or three months, arrives, and the barracks is left behind, with all its restraints and pleasures, its duns and other trivial drawbacks, for home and its civilian joys. Most youngsters get sick of home before their leave is half expired. They find barracks far more congenial, nor can it be wondered at, for the first two years or so. After this the glamor soon wears off, never to return.

Discipline is very strict in the English service; your superior officer is always "sir" to his face, even off duty, though the social relations of all ranks are most cordial. There is no interference with your private customs, unless they be discreditable to the regiment, and a friendly word of advice from a senior to a junior is frequently given, and usually received in the same spirit. Though the army is not an abode of sanctity, as a rule youngsters don't stray very far from the paths of virtue, and parental anxiety on this head is generally quite unnecessary. Men don't get intoxicated nowadays in the disgraceful way once prevalent in the English mess rooms.

Perhaps it is not generally known among Americans that English soldiers regard those of the United States service with a good deal of admiration and respect, despite differences in organization. The writer has often heard it laid down by old and experienced officers that no troops in the world ever fought more bravely under equal disadvantages than the Americans in the late war. He also entertains a very vivid recollection of an occasion on which two United States army men were the guests of his old regiment; certainly if the entente cordiale did not exist that evening between red and blue, there is no harmony in Nature!

It may be doubted, however, if the relations of the British private soldiers with their officers are as satisfactory as in the American service. There is a lamentable want of sympathy between them. An English officer in the vast majority of cases knows absolutely nothing of his men, and there is also a very narrow-minded and regretable tendency to down look upon such men as have by years of steady determination and work obtained a place among the commissioned ranks. So strong is this feeling that the writer has known several instances of first-rate men, who, when urged to go in for a commission, have replied that they were deterred by the conviction that they would be out of place, and merely tolerated through courtesy, and, therefore, preferred to remain sergeants or sergeant-majors to the end of their service. It is hard to perceive any remedy for this unjust state of affairs in view of the present state of English society, although the government is at length tardily following the example of the United States, in throwing open the higher ranks of the army to such men as prove themselves worthy and desirous of the reward.

It is popularly said that the French soldier carries a field marshal's baton in his knapsack, but the facts tend to show that the American has the best chance of such recognition of his merit. Certainly, the Englishman has not. There are authentic cases of men leaving the British army in disgust, to reenlist in that of the United States, and finally attain to positions for which their abilities qualified them. Sheer merit is the standard by which America measures its military servants, and a man who "has the sand" has only himself to blame if he does not come to the front. It is a pity that England does not adopt an equally just and large-minded system.—H. J. Fuller, in N. Y. Star.

Our Educational System.

Perhaps the most serious defect of the system of liberal education now prevalent in this country is its lack of a truly progressive character. It is full of fits and starts. It is too disjointed and fragmentary. This is partly because there are no settled principles of procedure, fixing the order and amounts of the studies; and partly because there is no power which can secure teachers that know precisely what they are expected, fitted, and permitted to teach. The consequence is that the different years of school life too much resemble the different successive sessions of the Legislature. Milton somewhere describes the process of legislation as "hatching a lie with the heat of jurisdiction." Fortunately, the process also consists in killing the brood of lies already hatched by previous legislation. Now the process of education in this country is by no means so bad in this regard as the process of legislation; but in certain respects the former too much resembles the latter.—Prof. George Trumbull Ladd, of Yale College, in Scribner's.

HAY FOR POULTRY.

It Makes Hens Healthy and Vigorous, and Produces More Eggs.

There is undoubtedly much good sense in the belief which many of our readers are rapidly adopting, that poultry can use more or less preserved grass to advantage. Some are using it in ensilage and others in its dry form. When it is dry it may readily be chopped fine, soaked in hot water, and thrown into the hen-house or mixed with meal, bran, etc. In summer hens can secure a large quantity of green fodder if they have range, but in winter, although there may be no restrictions to their liberty, most States in the Union prevent the birds from obtaining that which is of such vital necessity to good production and thrift.

Bulk appears to be necessary with the concentrated grain food which poultry require. If, as it is asserted, over 100 grains of lime are needed for each eggshell, the bones of the chick, etc., and as 1,000 lbs. of wheat or corn contains less than 1 lb. of lime, the hen is starving for lime. Because the hen can not extract lime from food which does not contain it, she is oftentimes condemned. White clover cured contains 20 to 30 times as much lime as wheat or grain, supplies the hen's needs, and being a perfect albumen producer is equal to corn or wheat, pound for pound, as a flesh-forming, nitrogenous food. Corn contains 86 per cent. of heat elements and clover 35 per cent. Of the phosphates, clover contains 7 times as much as corn, 10 times as much as sulphur or magnesia, 4 times as much as soda, and fully as much dry matter. With clover hay, hens can be fed for egg production in the most perfect and economical way, provided, of course, it be accompanied by the usual ration of grain, perhaps a little less. F. A. Mortimer, of Pottsville, Pa., who keeps 2,000 birds and feeds with great intelligence and profit, says that if he had known of the value of clover hay for hens four years ago he could have saved $1,000. Since beginning to use it he finds fewer sick hens, has more eggs and the birds are more vigorous and potent.

The hen has a disadvantage in not being allowed to roam, even if grass be brought her, for she can not naturally eat food in long form. One end of the stalk must be fastened to the ground. She can go into the field and pull leaves from the standing grass, but if it be mown she can not eat it. This causes her to become crop bound. Hay, to be valuable, must be chopped into very short lengths. The proper way to prepare clover is to cut it in the afternoon, scald it in a tub by pouring over it boiling water and then allowing it to stand covered with an old carpet or blanket over night. In the morning it will often be still warm and possess a fresh odor. To every bucketful of dry hay, add one quart of the following: Ground corn, ground oats and bran, 10 pounds; linseed meal, 1 pound; salt, 1 ounce. Mix this well and feed it in a trough, giving the hens all they will eat, morning and afternoon. A single bucket of dry clover scalded at night and treated to grain will feed 30 hens or more, and no other green food will be necessary. The great advantage of clover hay lies in the fact that the lime it contains has all been prepared, ready for assimilation by the hen through its combination with the vegetable acids. One hundred pounds of clover digested produces 3 pounds of soluble lime prepared by nature for immediate use.—P. H. Jacobs, in Farm and Home.

Enemies of the Wheat Aphis.

Prof. Cook, of the Michigan Experiment Station, calls attention to the insect enemies of the aphis, and in the absence of any known artificial remedy advises farmers to encourage their insect friends. Numbered with these beneficial insects are the wheat louse parasite, a tiny black fly. Lady bird beetles are also very efficient aids in the work of ridding the grain fields of aphides. Both as larvæ and as mature insects they feed on the plant lice and rapidly deplete their ranks. The syrphus fly, a rapid-flying, two-winged insect and lined with yellow bands, lays its eggs on the plants among the aphides, and the maggots that hatch from these, and which somewhat resemble leeches, suck the plant lice bloodless. The green, lace-winged chrysopa fly, with golden eyes, is no mean factor in its warfare against plant lice. The fly does not feed on the lice, but its larvæ does and with decided effect.—N. Y. World.

—A gentleman, accompanied by his wife, called the other day at a Portland (Me.) ticket office and asked for a ticket to his home, which he stated was Fort Vermilion. He was not surprised when told that the office did not have such a ticket, and contented himself with a ticket to Montreal, remarking, incidentally, that he hardly expected to be ticketed through, since his home is 1,200 miles from any railroad station. Such a remarkable distance from a railroad in these days of quick transportation was surprising, nor was his next statement any less so. It is 700 miles from his home to a post-office. A newspaper published not more than two months before is a great rarity in that faraway northern home.

—On the arrival of a train at Derby, England, the other day, the wheel tapper found in the spring of a box a thrush's nest full of eggs in process of incubation.

—Sand-burrs come from the seed, and may easily be destroyed in one season by cutting them down as fast as they appear.

FACTS FOR FARMERS.

—A few wood ashes sown over the onion bed will help the growth and make them healthy.

—It is better to allow corn to get too ripe before cutting it for the silo than to put it up too green.

—Keep something growing on the land and you will then keep down the weeds. It does not pay to take off a crop and then allow the land to grow up in weeds.

—Gypsum, when pure, is useful to many crops, as is well known, but especially to clover, corn, oats, grass, cabbage, turnips, etc. About one hundred pounds per acre are usually applied early in the spring.

—Orchard grass will thrive well on damp locations. It is an excelent grass, but "stools," which gives it an uneven appearance in the fields. As it becomes more compact each season it forms an even pasture.

—It needs extra warm pens and good feeding to make late fall pigs pay for wintering. As a rule pigs dropped in October or later should be sold for what they will bring. They will cost more to winter than they will be worth in the spring.

—Thickened boiled corn meal and oat meal mixed with chopped suet and a little pulverized charcoal every few days will fatten turkeys in eighteen days. They should be kept in a partially darkened shed or stable while being fattened.

—There are a thousand farmers working like slaves and competing with each other to make low-priced butter where there is one who has become intelligent on this question, so that he can make a better article and get better pay for his time and labor.

—Good sheep, good land and good roots generally go together, at any rate it is not often they are very far apart, for wherever land can raise a good crop and is dry enough to carry sheep through the winter it must very soon get into good heart and be able to grow almost any thing.

—If scrub stock does not pay try something better. The success of stock-raising depends on the breed. A steer of beef-producing breed will weigh one thousand pounds, while a scrub steer of the same age will not reach one-half that weight. The large difference shows where the loss occurs from the use of the scrub.

—Do not attempt to save the seeds of pumpkins, melons or squash unless the vines for that purpose are grown at a distance from all other varieties of the same family. The pollen of such plants is carried quite a distance by the winds, and also by insects. Two or more varieties will fertilize the blossoms of each.

—The grape is warm-country fruit, and should be set out where it may be exposed to the rays of the sun all the day long. Grapes generally do quite well on the easterly or westerly side of a building, but a southerly exposure is better. The soil should be dry and warm, whether it be sand, gravel or clay. While, like all other plants, the vine takes its food in solution, it will flourish in a dryer soil than any other plant, and it will never succeed where there is not good drainage.

THE LAMB ESCAPED.

How a Dog Was at Once and Forever Cured of His Only Vice.

A certain lady had once a valuable St. Bernard of excelent pedigree, carefully trained, and in all respects of well-nigh ideal excelence save for one fault: He would kill lambs. He was beaten, he was imprisoned, the body of the latest lamb which had fallen a victim to his fury was fastened around his neck as a badge of shame, but all to no avail. His mistress concluded that it was impossible to break him of his fault and that she must sell him.

While matters were in this state a friendly farmer who had upon some occasion got into his head the fact that the dog's mistress was fond of pets sent her a snowy cosset, all gay with ribbons and looking as innocent as innocence itself. The lady was in despair. She expected that her dog would fall upon the lamb and tear it limb from limb; but having in the past had much experience with pets she said to herself that if this catastrophe was to happen she did not propose to have it postponed until she became deeply attached to the new-comer, and so deliberately led the lamb up to the dog, said to him that it was her lamb and directed him to watch it. The dog looked at her rather wistfully, evidently requesting permission to tear the pretty innocent, but she sternly shook her head and departing left the pair together on the lawn.

She is willing to admit, now that the trial proved successful, that she had no idea that it would, and that she expected to find the lawn strewn with the dismembered fragments of the lamb. When a few hours later she returned, however, the dog was found to have taken the lamb into his especial favor and under his especial protection. He lay down with it, he followed it about, and seemed to have become uncommonly fond of it in a way not at all allied to carnivorous instincts. In short the lamb and the dog became the closest of friends, and as long as they two did live they continued to dwell together in peace and affection.

And the remarkable part of the tale is that from that day the dog no more molested any lambs whatsoever. It was a plain case of similia similibus curantur. The dog was at once and forever cured of his vice, and his fond mistress relates this story to admiring friends with mingled pride and affection.—Boston Courier

DAIRIES ON WHEELS.

A Profitable Business for Farmers Living Near Large Towns.

No man ever embarked in a legitimate business, coupled with a resolution to conduct it solely on honest, fair principles, without triumphantly succeeding in the end, and bequeathing an enviable reputation to posterity. Americans are a nation of hucksters, so there is no disgrace for any one to sell milk from door to door, more than there is to draw it away to a creamery. Some black sheep in the retail milk trade, like occasional delinquents in other professions, have stigmatized the vocation they represent by adulterating and diluting the milk. The perpetual newspaper pun about water in the milk which we buy from the retailers has made consumers stolically resigned to what they consider the privileged fraud of milkmen. Disregarding facetiousness, let us soberly inspect the milk business, and not condemn till we have just cause for condemnation. The number of people in this country who depend on the city milk-man for their daily supply can be enumerated by the millions, hence that avocation is fraught with sanative importance to the whole city population. In cities of moderate population milk-men are generally country dairymen with small farms adjacent. They rear their own cows, pasture them on their own acres, and with honesty of purpose daily draw the milk yield to town and serve it out to their customers.

The way to drive the black sheep out of the milk trade (provided there is any, and even if there is not, to establish a lucrative trade among honest competitors) is to encourage conscientious suburban dairymen of small means to go into the business. If, in your particular locality, small fruit-growing and vegetable-raising have been overdone, invest in three, five or ten cows as your land limit and means allow, and see what the dairy will do for you. There is more money in this branch of dairying on a small scale rightly conducted than is often realized from a large butter-producing herd carelessly attended to. First, buy nothing but the best cows; never mind the cost, as it is folly to start at all if you can not start right. If you think that your probable customers would prefer Jersey milk, and are willing to pay for it, invest in that breed. If not, buy cows that would pass as excelent butter producing animals, young, vigorous and without physical blemish. Look as much to the richness of your milk as to the copious quantity. This is the main essential that will please customers and pave the way for a loyal, steadfast patronage. Don't be fearful of a too small acreage; remember that contiguous to a city you can support more cows to advantage on a limited area than you could on an ordinary country place. Milk at $1 per 100 pounds means two cents per quart, but you could sell your milk for at least five cents per quart, and perhaps more. The factories and creameries now-a-days net their patrons very little over 75 cents per 100 pounds, or 1¼ of a cent per quart. So you see you can afford to buy a great deal of forage and grain for your limited dairy. Ground feed can be obtained cheaper in a city than at stations in the country. You can handle baled hay with facility, and you can also raise heavy crops of such nutritious roots as carrots, mangels and rutabagas.

In the delivery wagon don't aim at any thing ostentatious, or accept any thing shabby. Let immaculate neatness and sterling simplicity characterize every thing about the rig and appurtenances. Aim to have your milk pure, rich and wholesome. Use no water; if it costs you more to produce such milk and thereby curtail profit, enter the competitive race with less scrupulous milkmen with nothing but the most honorable and liberal trade motives. In the end you will come out ahead, for such a policy is sure to win among appreciative customers. Conduct your vocation on business-like principles; do not trust too heavily, and demand a settlement with customers at stated intervals. If you were a country dairyman taking your milk to a cheese factory or creamery for manufacture, a moderate lacteal maturity would be desirable, but as a caterer to the fastidious tastes of townspeople, who desire it for direct consumption, it should be as sweet as when drawn from the cow. One requisite would be an ice-house, where milk could be refrigerated up to the moment of sending to market. A great trade is growing in cream as well as milk, for table use, and it would well pay amateur milkmen to make this a collateral branch of their business. Only the rich can afford to dairy for fun; the poor must dairy for profit; so, my friends in the vocation, if you are not wealthy, remember that profit cometh of perseverance and shrewdness. Money can be made in a thriving town selling fresh country milk by the glass to thirsty pedestrians. It is more inviting on a hot day than lemonade or soda water. Small farmers, near town, try a dairy on wheels and see what you think of it.—George E. Newell, in Ohio Farmer.

—After removing the melon vines in the fall set out a red raspberry plant on each hill. The manure left over from the supply given the melons will induce vigorous growth of cane next season, and the plants will be sufficiently close, as they will soon thicken in the row. Keep the canes clean until they are nearly ready to bear, and cut them out if too thick.

POLITICS IN GREECE.

A Country Where the Spoils System is Practiced to Perfection.

I visited the Parliament house yesterday. It is a big three-story building of brick and stucco, which looks more like the mansion of a Paris millionaire than a government office. Ionic columns of the purest white marble support a portico over its front door and its interior contains a library, some offices and the hall in which the deputies meet. There is but one house in the Greek Parliament and this contains one hundred and fifty members who are elected by the people of the various provinces, every man having the right to vote. The members are elected for four years, and they must sit not less than three nor longer than six months every year. They receive salaries amounting to four hundred dollars a session, and if an extra session is called they get three hundred dollars more. In the most prosperous times they can not thus make more than seven hundred dollars a year. They have fully as much power as members of Congress and they in reality govern Greece. The King has the veto power, but he would not dare to exercise it against a large majority vote and the result is that his power is not much greater than that of the Queen of England. The room in which the Greek Parliament meets is about as big as the average church, holding three hundred people. Its walls reach from the floor to the top of the three-story building which contains it, and its ceiling is of great panels of gold and white wood work. It is built in the shape of a half moon and into the walls are cut two rows of galleries, one above the other. The seats of the deputies are semi-circle benches which rise in concentric rows one above another, and in the center of which at the front of the room is the seat of the President. This seat is built between two great white marble columns and in the galleries back of it is a sort of an opera box in which the King sits when he attends the meetings. Marble busts of the King and Queen stand on pedestals, just below this, and between the deputies and the President are desks at which sit the ministers of the King's cabinet. The members themselves have little desks a foot square which are fastened to the backs of the benches in front of them, and each bench contains room for several members. The Greeks are very fond of speaking, and they are good speakers, and a place in this chamber is quite as much an honor here as is a seat in our Senate. A politician has in fact more influence here than in the United States, and it is men rather than measures which constitute the politics of Greece. The party in power rules and controls the offices, and if it fails to hold the support of the Chamber of Deputies the opposition comes in and takes the reins, and on the old spoils system ousts the officials of the opposite party and puts in its own. Just now Mr. Tricoupis, one of the greatest statesmen of Greece, is the Premier, and his party lately got the reins. They changed all the clerks and by looking at the books proved their predecessors guilty of defrauding the government. This was especially so in the custom-house offices, all the old employes of which are, I am told, now in prison, while the clerks of some of the other offices are awaiting trial.—F. G. Carpenter, in Louisville Courier-Journal.

How to Become a Capitalist.

Somebody must save money; and the people who save it will be the capitalists, and they will control the organization of industry and receive the larger share of the profits. If the workingmen will save their money, they may be not only sharers of profits, but owners of stock and receivers of dividends. And the workmen can save their money if they will. It is the only way in which they can permanently and surely improve their condition. Legislative reforms, improved industrial methods, may make their way easier for them, but there is no road to comfort and independence, after all, but the plain old path of steady work and sober saving. If the working people of this country would save, for the next five years, the money they spend on beer and tobacco and base ball, they could control a pretty large share of the capital employed in the industries by which they get their living, and they could turn the dividends of this capital from the pockets of the money-lenders into their own. There is no other way of checking the congestion of wealth and of promoting its diffusion, so expeditious, so certain and so beneficent as this. I wish the working people would try it.—Washington Gladden, in Forum.

—Mr. Jefferson Jackson—"I wish foh to git some candy foh a young lady, sah." Confectioner—"Yes, sir. Is there any particular kind you would like?" Mr. Jefferson Jackson—"Well, I dunno, sah, as dev is." Confectioner—"How would some of the bonbons suit you?" Mr. Jefferson Jackson—"I guess you kin gimme some of dem dere flesh-colored candies up yander." Confectioner—"Ah, you mean those chocolate drops."—America.

—A Milwaukee genius has established a school for the training of professional beggars. He furnishes disguises, rules for begging and a regular route for each of his pupils, telling them the stories to use and the peculiarities of those they are likely to meet. In exchange he demands half the profits.

FAMILY GOVERNMENT.

Too Much of It Almost as Bad as a Total Absence of Authority.

Every body has probably observed at some time the hardships and inequalities that result from spasmodic enforcements of the law, and from the enactment of unnecessary or ill-considered laws. Law-making is, or ought to be, a science, but as it is intrusted to men with no special training for the business, much of the legislation follows no settled principle or scheme of government, but is prepared as some special occasion seems to demand, and often under the influence of passions or emotions that prevent calm and reasonable consideration of the measures to be taken. Examples of this may be found in fire-escape laws promptly enacted after some great conflagration and loss of life, made unnecessarily narrow and rigid in their requirements, resisted on that account and ultimately neglected. Frequent examples are also found in city ordinances passed in great number for the regulation of every thing and every body, and so numerous and exacting that many of them are altogether forgotten by citizens and the authorities. The mischief to which such ordinances may give rise lies in the fact that, having been neglected and forgotten, they may be discovered and enforced spasmodically after the custom of violating them has become established, and when it is a hardship to require compliance with them. Such defects in the ordinances of councils and in the laws enacted by State legislatures and by Congress have been frequently noted and commented upon, but it is not so generally noticed that precisely similar faults are sometimes committed by business men, by educators and by parents. The employer of labor issues unnecessary rules, neglects to enforce them, issues new rules, and through his own administrative neglect leads his employes into the belief, founded on experience, that these rules and regulations amount to nothing, and are not intended to be enforced. Some day, however, a gross violation, or an accident resulting therefrom, turns his attention to the subject and he becomes a strict disciplinarian. There is no doubt that his rules have been disobeyed; that is his excuse for harsh measures. There is just as little doubt on the part of his employes that he is unjust in overturning long-established customs, and hence results a trade dispute difficult to settle. The unwise teacher in a similar way issues so many directions and fails to have them obeyed that his school is without discipline, and when he tries to enforce order he appears in the light of a petty tyrant. The parent also needs to study the science of government, that he may apply its principles in the family circle. If he issues orders without due consideration, is sometimes careless about requiring obedience, sometimes rigid in his demands, his children will grow up without due respect for his authority. In the family, as in the State, only reasonable laws or rules of conduct should be made, but these should be strictly enforced. It is painful to observe a parent giving unnecessary directions to a child and then yielding to the latter's persuasion of resistance—painful because of the bad effect such experience must have upon the child. Unconsciously he learns that by cajolery or rebelion he may obtain his own way; he becomes selfish and imperious, and as he grows in years gets altogether beyond the control of his irresolute parent. Too much government is quite as bad as none at all. The happy mean is reached when the laws of the State or of the family are only those necessary to the orderly administration of affairs, when they are founded upon reason and are impartially enforced. Consideration of this principle may furnish a guide to parents who sincerely desire the welfare of their children, but who endanger it by too great indulgence on the one hand or too great severity and discipline on the other. Child nature should be allowed to unfold naturally as the flower blooms, guided, it may be, trained, protected, but not forced.—Baltimore Sun.

A Work Begun Under Nero.

A work of engineering begun by the Romans under Nero, in the second century, will be finished this year; that is, it has been in process of construction for over seventeen hundred years. The work to which we refer is the cutting of a canal through the Isthmus of Corinth. The canal, when done, will be only four miles long, and will have a depth of eight meters, which will allow the passage of the largest vessels used in Greek traffic. It is not so great a matter from an international view as the Suez and Nicaragua projects, but it will do much to further the rapid progress made by modern Greece in the arts of civilization and commerce.—Sunshine.

Gradually Wasting Away.

"When your practicing friend across the way has learned to play the cornet he will entertain the whole neighborhood," said Mrs. Brown.

"Yes," said Mrs. Crown, "but by that time there won't be any neighborhood here."—Somerville Journal.

Objected to a Perquisite.

Jack—Charley, why don't you propose to the Widow Green's daughter? She's rich and is regarded as the pearl of her sex.

Charley—I know it, my boy, but I dislike the mother of pearl.—Jewelers Weekly.