

# The 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.

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## HIS LAST ROLE.

Story of the Rise and Fall of an Actor.

The curtain had already been raised three times and still the applause was prolonged. They were compelled to raise it again. Darcinourt, his left hand pressed against his heart, his right holding several gilt laurel crowns, bowed, while his eyes filled with tears.

"The bravos increased to a storm; he wanted to say something to express his thanks to the public, but the old comedian could only open his lips and utter a mumbling sound. He was overcome; his emotions were too deep to clothe in words.

Caesars beat on the floor with a furious noise. The entire theater shook with the sound. Again and again did the ushers pass up to the stage paper palm branches bearing ribbons on which the principal roles of the actor were printed.

Meanwhile the Darcinourts stood in the midst of the company that had supported him the stage manager left the group and embraced him in the name of the crowd. At the same time he placed one of the crowns on his head. The crown, far too large, slipped down to his shoulders, but what of that?—the scene was beautiful.

It was on this tableau and amid fresh and furious applause that the curtain descended, leaving Darcinourt to take off his crown and receive the felicitations of his comrades.

Never before in that provincial city had a similar manifestation been made over a retiring actor, and as he was to leave the stage permanently there was no jealousy among his fellows. So he retired to the Cafe de la Comedie, where a second ovation awaited him, and the fragrant smoke from the punch bowls on the marble tables received the enthusiasm of those who pressed forward to do him honor. And there were toasts without number, you may be sure.

The old habits of the theater re-proached him for leaving them so soon. "Why, if one pleases the public, one is always young."

And he, robbing his chin, that had been shaven for more than half a century, was obliged to defend his retirement. His hair was white; he was too rheumatic to kneel gracefully in the love scenes. Besides, he made his mark, his life had been passed on the boards. Well, he needed repose. He wanted to see the real country instead of faded canvas. He had dreamed of a little farm—a little garden where he could smoke his pipe in the quietude of his old days. It was time to think of himself; he had given enough of his life to the public. And it was amusing to hear him speak of his farming projects, seated there in the costume of Louis XV., with the "makeup" still on his face, which in the heat of the cafe glauced in oily lines.

At last the manager, with his majestic gravity, and also moved by the libations he had taken during that affecting evening, declared that there was no telling what the future might bring forth. Who could say that Darcinourt would not come back some day? But the latter shook his head. No! His decision had been made; he wanted now to enjoy the luxury of doing nothing.

Two days afterward Darcinourt installed in his little house, his head covered with a large straw hat, wearing a linen suit and wooden shoes, began to water his flowers in the midst of a broiling sun, while chatting with the little servant maid.

"But you ought to wait till evening," she said. "You will perish."

"Bah!" he smiled. "Flowers are like women. You can't show them too much attention."

From that time a delicious life began for him in the peace of his rustic home. He thought with horror of the rehearsals of other days, of the constant changing of costumes and parts to be learned, and shivered at the remembrance of those scenes which called for nervous action. A year of peaceful plowage felt and sown beneath his feet, why not? he kept asking himself, again and again—so often, in fact, that he began to doubt if he felt so sincerely.

This happiness at the bottom was monotonous. Yet he was not willing to acknowledge that usual which he had longed for so much, and the more he assured himself that he needed nothing there he saw that the days that dragged by were abominably void and dull.

To-day, seated in an arbor taking his coffee, he allowed his pipe to go out as he read over some old plays, occasionally pausing to exclaim as he came to some familiar role. "Ah, I was great in that!" And the old memories of the past that he thought were buried came to the present and sang a siren song in his ears. Ah, the name of applause, the shouts and bravos that set the lights trembling after an impassioned speech! And the little servant coming to remove the dishes surprised him standing there flushed of face, his hair blowing in the breeze, apostrophizing an imaginary personage.

## A SPIDER FARM.

Several Thousand Living Specimens Carefully Tended in One Room.

Many will be inclined to discredit the statement that spider-raising is an established industry in Chattanooga, and it being successfully conducted by Ernest Keyser, the proprietor of the Enterprise bottling works on Cowart street. Mr. Keyser estimates that between 5,000 and 6,000 of these insects make their homes in his bottling department, which occupies a large room probably sixty feet square. The ceiling is fairly covered with thousands upon thousands of little patches of fibrous material, within which the insects nest and lay their eggs. At this season they spend little time in their nests, but in day time hide in dark, out-of-the-way cracks and corners, but in easy command of their woven snares.

Spider-webs are everywhere, spanning the space between floor and ceiling or spread about the machinery, in front of the window—wherever, in fact, the breeze blows, and find a place from which to hang their net work.

A big corner of the room is besides given up to the insects, which have apparently divided the space into many four-walled apartments.

Mr. Reber is a pleasant and intelligent talker and a shrewd observer. His fair complexion betokens his Teutonic descent. He said: "These creatures grow more than a great many people. I keep them because they wage such constant war on flies, cockroaches and other such vermin which are very troublesome to me, and which are attracted by the sirup, sugar, etc., used in the bottling business. A spider never cares for sweet things nor drops into my vase or bottle. Flies and cockroaches are nature's scavengers, but those spiders which every one that approaches the vase, and find a place from which to hang their net work, disturb them when I can help it, except to feed them occasionally. They appear to know my call, and will come when called and crawl upon my hand or take a fly from my fingers. They are tame, and have never bitten me, though I wouldn't promise so much to a stranger. This spider is a herbivorous animal, and eats himself up during the most of the winter in those little nests you see stuck like mud daubs on the ceiling. When winter comes I brush away all these webs, for the spiders prefer to weave new webs every spring. As a cow must be milked every day this vary and provident little creature must unravel each spring the silken fabric that is stored in its body. He does not make his appearance till May, when the flies have laid their eggs and hatched their first brood; else the fly crop would soon be out. Meantime the hundreds of eggs which each female spider laid during the previous summer and fall have been going through a process of incubation, and now turn out the older ones to seek a living for themselves. Mr. Reber has encouraged the insects to harbor in his establishment for two years past, and finds the spider of such practical utility as to be almost indispensable.—Chattanooga Times.

ONE ON THE COOL CAPTAIN.

The Laying Lieutenant Finally Gets Down to Business.

A good story is told by an English paper of a lying officer having been victimized by a brother officer (who was noted for his cool deliberation and strong nerves), and his getting square with him in the following manner:

The cool joker, the captain, was always quizzing the lying officer, a lieutenant, for his nervousness, and said one day in the presence of his company: "Why, nervousness is all nonsense. I tell you, lieutenant, no brave man will be nervous."

"Well, inquired his lying friend, 'how would you do those a bell with an 18th fustee should drop it from a wall angle, in which you had taken shelter from a company of sharpshooters, and where it would herald if you put out your nose you'd get peppered?'"

"How," said the captain, wrinkling at the brow, "why, take it cool, and spit on the face!"

"The party broke up, and all retired except the patrol.

The next morning a number of soldiers were assembled on the parade and talking in clusters, when along came the lying lieutenant, and he was greeted by the patrol.

"I want to try an experiment this morning and see how exceedingly cool the captain can be."

"Saying this, he walked deliberately into the captain's quarters, where a fire was burning on the hearth, placed in its hottest center a powder canister and instantly retreated.

There was but one mode of egress from the quarters, and that was upon the parade ground, the road being built up for defense. The occupant took one look at the canister, comprehended the situation, and in a moment dashed at the door, but it was fastened on the outside.

## RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL.

The public schools of this country have 200,000 teachers and 13,000,000 pupils.

—Be not faint hearted in misfortune. When God causes a tree to be hewn down, he takes care that his birds can nestle on another.

—The Presbyterian church asks for \$220,000 to prosecute the work among the freedmen, which is the same amount asked by the Methodist Episcopal church.

—The first Sabbath school was instituted in 1787. There are now in the United States 108,939 Sabbath schools, with 8,649,000 scholars. The world has 50,075,395 Sabbath school scholars.

—Faith is the hand that lays hold on Christ; the eye that looks to Christ; the ear that hears the voice of Christ; the mouth that feeds on Christ; the finger that touches Christ; and the key that unlocks the treasures of Christ.—Rev. F. Harper.

—The sculptor Ephraim Keyser has been appointed instructor in modeling at the Maryland institute, Baltimore, in the schools of art and design. Dr. Keyser's latest work is a model of a heroic size designed for the tomb of President Arthur. He has also a "Psyche" in the Cincinnati Art museum, and he has made the statue of Gen. de Kalb for Annapolis.

—Elders James Brown and Edward Sudbury have returned to San Francisco from the Society Islands, whither they were sent as Mormon missionaries.

—We now have in the cathedrals in these islands, said Elder Sudbury, "The natives take kindly to the Mormon religion, and we are converting them by hundreds. In some places whole islands have been converted."

—The Lutheran church naturally has its largest membership in Germany—22,000,000—but it has also a large membership among those who speak other languages. For instance, 5,000,000 Swedish, 2,500,000 Norwegian, 2,000,000 Danish, 2,048,000 Finnish, 1,250,000 Livonian, 1,113,000 Hungarian, 624,000 English, 490,000 Courlandish, 373,000 Estonian, 70,000 French, 70,000 Icelandic, and 48,000 Bohemian.

—It is reported in the Roman Catholic papers that the Paulist Fathers are planning a new aggressive campaign for the purpose of converting Protestants to Rome. The chief effort of the church has been to make Catholics more Catholic. Now they must go direct to Protestants and put before them the claims of the church and the need of membership in it.

—The United States were settled by men who desired to worship God according to their own consciences, yet in Virginia a man named George was required to subscribe to this test oath: "I do declare that there is no transubstantiation in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, or in the elements of bread and wine, or after the consecration thereof, by any person whatsoever."

WIT AND WISDOM.

—Guest—Here, waiter, there is a fly in my coffee. Waiter—That's all right, sir; we've got plenty more.—Inter Ocean.

—Mrs. Potts—Mrs. Fyler called this morning. Jack Potts (absent-mindedly)—What did you have?—Philadelphia Record.

—"Do you call your wife your better half, Mr. Henpeck?" "Better half? Hm! My friend, she is more than three-quarters."—N. Y. Press.

—At the Mountains—First Girl—What are you sketching? Second Girl—A man. First Girl—You must have a good memory.—Boston Courier.

—"Of course I do. I know one policeman whose best includes eight fruit stands and seven saloons."—Indianapolis Journal.

## FASHIONS IN GLASSWARE.

White and Pale Tints Have Displaced the Deeper Colorings.

Nothing save flowers leads so much charm to a well-appointed table as tastefully chosen decanters and glasses. There is a fashion in this as in all other matters. In regard to coloring the prevailing taste is certainly not in this direction. Even for books white is often used, and citrus and pale greens have taken the place of the old ruby and deep green.

The revolution in the shape of champagne glasses has apparently proved a welcome one for the wide, low glass is rarely found among the newer patterns, and has been almost universally replaced by the old, tall, narrow shape familiar to one's childhood. These look more graceful and are easier to lift than the others.

Sorbet glasses, too, are coming into fashion. This is a welcome innovation, as that particular kind of ice has hitherto been served in ordinary custard glasses, which, to the foreigner at least, must seem rather anomalous.

Engraved glass is still used and very beautiful designs are seen in a faint or twisted wave. In this pattern are attractive Elizabeth jugs and breakers mounted in silver, copies of old designs were resists in the South Kensington museum dated 1568.

For decorative purposes there are many novelties in colored glass. The green Nuremberg glass is very much admired, and it made in many artistic shapes. It is less expensive than the English, and of a paler tint. A new vase for flowers is shaped like a milk-stand, and the tall, narrow decanter is very effective. There is also a new kind of decorative glass which is likely to become a favorite, though the price will be rather high. It is an imitation of tapestry work enameled in faint old-fashioned colors on fine threaded glass.

There is a great deal to say on the subject of the management of glass. It is essential that it should be thoroughly well cared for, since badly cleaned plate and dull glasses are a disgrace to any house. Some servants use cold water, others prefer warm. It should be remembered that delicate glass will not stand very hot water. A wooden bowl is the best vessel to use, and it should be kept for this purpose only, and frequently scoured to obviate all possibilities of greenness. The softest and driest cloths should be used, and without these it will be impossible to put a good polish on the glass.

There are many ways of cleaning decanters. The habit of using shot is not to be recommended, as it is apt to leave atoms of lead adhering to the glass, but common salt, tea leaves, and, above all, ammonia, are excellent for cleaning purposes. All bottles should be well shaken after being filled with ammonia, or other material, and left to stand for a time. After more shaking, rinse again, till the water remains quite clear and set the decanter upside down on a rack to drain; the outside can be washed and polished when the inside is clean and dry.

Final polish can be given with the following:—A good plan for the servants to use a wash-leather glove when putting the glasses on the table.—London Queen.

BABY'S WARDROBE.

Garnets for the Infant Babe of the Nineteenth Century.

Baby's wardrobe is fairly bewildering in its costly simplicity, lace-trimmed and hand-embroidered hoes, "hoof" petticoats to wear beneath his wonderful bretteled and puffed and collared dresses, dainty socks, all embroidered on sleeves and collars and revers and all the finest of hand needlework, bonnet, and dress work.

"Pink for a boy and blue for a girl" is a generally accepted dictum, though why nobody quite knows, unless a boy's outlook is so much more rosy than the girl's fairly tinged by blue. But for those who prefer a departure from the ordinary, pale green is an excellent choice, and silver ribbon and silver silk can be made to add wonderfully to an outfit. For instance, a cozy baby robe of dress work over a slip of silver silk, with a cap and long cloak to match. The fancy wrappers and the little booties have bows of colored ribbons, of course. "Baby" ribbons are used for rosettes, and these decorate the dear little doll-like caps which sit close to the tiny heads are the prettiest things in the world. Wadded vandyke made of cheese cloth or flanne, but some mothers prefer wrappers of eiderdown, which does not need wadding. Beautiful carriage rugs are of eiderdown. For winter two layers of eiderdown are bound together with ribbons. Thus a large rug of white eiderdown will have a face of blue and a binding of blue satin ribbon, and on one corner will be set a gigantic bow of broad blue satin ribbon. Summer rugs are of one thickness of eiderdown embroidered with moss roses and other small flowers in cheville. Long cloaks are particularly elegant at present, the short, open-mouth, ho-collared and ho-winged style is most popular, and in it baby looks like a smaller edition of mamma. In all and through all is the idea that fitness and softness are the two essentials of Master Baby's wardrobe, and all others are subservient.—Chicago Post.

At a Dinner.

The subject of lamplighted is so far from being exhausted that designs of great beauty and often of the most unlooked for oddity have appeared. A new one of these, last is a dolphin which crosses the middle of the lamp, the shade portion consisting of plaited silk paper which represents a sun coming from its mouth. A very handsome design shows blue lilies at the top, placed very high, and roundels running around the wide plaited paper which covers the glass chimney.—Chicago Mail.

—Now, remember," said the school-teacher, "a contagious disease is one you can catch." "Is speaking a disease?" asked Benny Bloombumper. "No; how ridiculous!" "Well, I often catch one."—Harper's Bazar.

## IN THE ELECTRICAL WORLD.

Lightning recently struck the British ship Oxford off Cape Hatteras and raised every compass on board.

—The Westinghouse company has perfected a dynamo which automatically produces just the amount of current needed for any number of lights within the capacity of the machine.

—The telegraph and telephone lines of Switzerland are owned and operated by the government. There are 1,411 telegraph offices and 12,595 telephone offices. The profits derived from them amount to more than \$250,000 yearly.

—A party of eastern capitalists is visiting the Grand canyon of Colorado to investigate the feasibility of laying an electric cable 500 miles along the river, with which to drive small boats through the Black Canyon and other scenic spots.

—A western inventor is about to take out a patent on a process for producing aluminum from its oxide, at a cost much below that of any present electrical process. It is said that by the new process aluminum can be put on the market at a price below that of copper, bulk for bulk.

—Some 300 "bases of the London General Omnibus Company have been fitted with accumulators for the purpose of running electric lights at night. Only one lamp of six-candle power is put under the center of each bus roof, and the cost of equipping and running each bus is about \$15 year.

—The method adopted by an electric lighting company of London in laying their connections consists of copper strips conducted along their entire system in culverts under ground. A trolley has been trained to do this work, and carries the electric wires through the culverts with the skill of an experienced workman.

—An English medical journal suggests that the action of electricity on lead water pipes may sufficiently impregnate the water with lead to cause poisoning. Here is a chance for some experiments with a view to determining whether water is thus affected, or not, under the conditions named. If it is, it might result in cases of serious illness, the cause of which ordinarily would be difficult to determine.

—Artificially imitated auroras of the borealis variety have been produced by both De la Rive, the French savant, and Lenström, the Swedish astronomer. In Prof. Lenström's experiments, which were made in Finland, the peak of a high mountain was surrounded with a coil of wire, pointed at intervals with the nibs. The wire was then charged with electricity, whereupon a brilliant aurora appeared above the mountain, in which the colors and alysis revealed the greenish-yellow rays so characteristic in nature's display of "northern lights."

—A German professor, Prof. Braun, has discovered that if a spiral of wire be elongated mechanically a current will be produced in it. The creation of the current is not due to magnetic or thermo-electric effects, but is based upon the fact that the bending of the wire generates a current in it. The current generated in a left-handed spiral has been proven by experiments to move in a direction opposite to that of a current developed in a right-handed spiral. Nickel wire is said to be the best for making experiments in this direction.

—It is a noteworthy fact that post-mortem examinations have been held on the bodies of electrocuted criminals in a very short time after they were shocked. Who, among us all can positively and certainly declare whether life has left the body after a passage through it of an electric current? A shock of 3,000 volts will undoubtedly kill some men, and may only stun others. Is there a competent physician who will state upon his honor that the criminals who have been electrocuted in New York state were dead when they were carried from the chair?—Electrical Review.

—The projectors of the \$10,000,000 interior canal, to be built parallel to the coast of California, count on the power produced by the flow of the water from the level of the higher lakes to the lower to do great things in the way of utilizing the electricity generated by the canal with electric light and power. The canal, say they, will be 175 miles long and will accumulate a store of immense locks. The surplus water will be first used to operate electric generating plants, and will then be used for the purposes of irrigation.

From the sale of the electricity the projectors count upon an income which will do much to help pay interest on the sum invested and help meet expenses. The canal, as planned, will run from Salinas bay, a little to the northeast of San Francisco, in a southeasterly direction down the San Joaquin valley to Tulare lake and then on to Bakersfield. Several capitalists have taken enough interest in the scheme to look into it, but thus far the money needed for constructing the canal has not been raised.

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Mrs. Strongminded—Why should not women do all the piano-tuning in the country? Tell me that?

Mrs. DeWag—They might manage with uprights, but they would never get through with the other kinds. When the lid of a square or a grand is raised it becomes a mirror.—Pack.

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