LOYAL WOMAN'S WORK

The Household---Conversation Club. Puzzles, etc.

The Happy Household.

HAPPY HOUSEHOLD: I wish some of you would try my way of cooking tomatoes. I know you will pronounce them good, containing all their native sweetness and delicious flavor. I call them Hasty Tomatoes. Take ripe, firm tomatoes, peel and slice very fine; put a piece of butter—a good big piece—in your pan or kettle and melt, but do not brown; then turn in your tomatoes, season with salt, pepper, and just a sprinkle of sugar; stir until very hot, and serve at once.—Mary Dillman, Wauseon, O.

HAPPY HOUSEHOLD: If you girls had the skirt of a brown silk, quite good, and wanted to make it up into a nice dress, combined with some other material, please say just what you would use and how to make it.—Annie Kennon, 587 Erie St., Toledo, O.

Editor's Chat.

The following inquiry is on the Editor's table, and a reply called for:

When a young man calls to see a young lady, should she ask him to call again when he goes away. Also, when lovers quarrel should she return his presents?—A Reader of THE TRIBUNE.

Certainly, a young lady should ask a young gentleman to call again, if she desires him to do so; otherwise, he would be very reluctant to do so, had he any delicacy of feeling. A young lady should never urge a gentleman to call, or to stay longer, should he propose to go after a brief call; neither should she urge him to call again. But she may say, "I shall be happy to have you call again," or "Call again, Mr. Smith," or words to that effect, modestly expressed.

As to returning presents, we can scarcely imagine a young lady desiring to retain presents after a quarrel with her lover. Certainly they should be returned, unless it is one of those lover's quarrels which are only projected for the pleasure of making up again.

All those who are holding back answers to perplexing and puzzling questions will forward replies at one. Questions sent by Edgar Bowers are being held for answers.

To Edith and all who ask questions: If you send questions simply to set others to looking up the answers, always send replies, that the Editor may have them for constant reference. If you ask questions for information, be careful to state the same to the Editor, who will then look up any reference not at hand. To send questions without reply or explanation will be to land them at once in the waste-basket from this time forth.

In order that the Happy Household, including, of course the Conversation Club, may know that their words, kindly spoken, are never lost, the following letter from one of the gray-coated veterans of the Union is given for their encouragement and well-doing. The very interesting and profitable discussion "Does Invention Benefit Labor" will close next week, with a few remarks by the Editor.

Conversation Club.

Rules of the Club.—1. Write briefly. 2. Write on one side of the paper. 3. Write to the point. 4. Write on one subject. 5. Write your best. 6. Send answers to all puzzles for use of Editor. Each week the names of those writing the best letters—style, composition, spelling, penmanship and general merit considered—will be named at the head of this column on the Honor Roll. First honor will include all of these requirements. Second honor will include a deficiency in some one point. No others will be named.

HONOR ROLL.—BEST LETTERS.

First Honor—

Second Honor—Harry Edwards, Bloomington, Ill.; Hart H. Bronson, Sedalia, Mo.

A VETERAN TO THE YOUNG FOLKS.

DEAR EDITOR: I desire to write a few lines to our young comrades, sons and daughters of veterans. In reading their letters my heart goes out toward them in loving kindness. I am an "old batch" going on 65 in age; served three years in the army. Prior to the war, being engaged in active business, I gave but light thought for the young ones, but now I feel differently. Well, children, you are destined very soon to step into our place, and fight the battle of life for yourselves and country. You have a fair country. There is none like it on the face of the globe; none like it in its natural resources; none like it in its advancement, prosperity and growth.

You have a Government. There is not its equal (when rightly administered over) in any Nation in existence. To you it will be left as a legacy by those who fought to preserve it, to cherish and protect it. Learn to love it, and let your hearts swell with patriotic pride towards it. Love God, your father and mother; honor, shield and protect them. Love honor, truth, honesty and right principles. Let "Honor bright" be your motto, and you will become a blessing to yourselves and to those around you.—E. C. Woods, 12th Ohio Cav., National Military Home, Milwaukee, Wis.

IS SELF LOVE OUR CHIEF INCENTIVE?

FRIENDS OF THE CLUB: I take the affirmative in the discussion proposed by S. M. P., Kilbourn City, Wis. If the friends of the Club will examine their hearts honestly and not carelessly for the real motive of any consummated or contemplated course of action, I think they will be convinced that at least the principal incentive is self love or selfishness. Do not come to a conclusion until you have analyzed yourself thoroughly, for if you are inclined to be a little egotistical (and many of us are) it will be very easy for you to make yourself believe that you are actuated by nothing but disinterested and philanthropic motives.—Harry Edwards, 314 Bloomington, Ill.

TORTURE OF THE INDIANS.

FRIENDS OF THE CLUB: I say the Indians have been far worse treated than the negroes. History is full of the horrors inflicted upon them. When the white people first came to this Continent the Indians were a simple, good-natured people. The white people made slaves of them, and for the slightest offense the poor Indian's hands were cut off, his tongue torn out of his mouth, or he was burnt at the stake. Then, too, they were given reservations for their own use, but the moment anything of value was discovered on them, they were driven away like so many dogs. What wonder they resisted. The Indians are what we made them. If we had tried William Penn's plan, in the first place, they would be our best friends to-day, and many brave men who have lost their lives in trying to subdue them would be useful citizens to-day.—Genevra Kephart, Osceola Mills, Pa.

DO INVENTIONS BENEFIT LABOR?

FRIENDS OF THE CLUB: I take the affirmative. I think all the recent inventions have for their aim the benefiting of laboring classes, and I think they have been successful. After the invention of the cotton-gin by Eli Whitney, cotton was more extensively cultivated, and, in a few years, became the great Southern staple. While laborers were thrown out of employment by the invention, more are now employed in the manufacture of the machinery and in the cotton mills. In Massachusetts alone, in prosperous times, over 50,000 persons find employment in the mills.

With woolen, as with cotton, the manufacture of cloth was confined to households for home use. The wool was carded between two cards held in the hands of the operator, the process being slow and crude. In 1797 Asa Whittemore, of Massachusetts, invented a carding machine; mills were established and many persons that before were idle found work.

Iron is manufactured in every form, from a nail to a locomotive. A vast number of machines have been invented to carry on these manufactures. The cutlery, fire-arms, railway material and machinery made from the iron require a great number of men to assist in their manufacture.

Is the invention of the printing press not a benefit to laborers? Before its invention books were scarce and costly, while now they are within the reach of nearly every laborer in the land. Many whose parents were too poor to allow them to attend school have acquired a good common education by studying the books and papers which can be procured for a small sum. As education is decidedly beneficial to all, was not the invention of the printing press a help to the laboring classes? To Chas. Day I would say a machine to be a good mechanical production needs only to be well made in every respect, but yet it may not satisfactorily perform the work for which it is intended, and is, therefore, discarded as useless.—Lydia E. Day, Franconia, Minn.

FRIENDS OF THE CLUB: Invention does benefit labor, and I will answer Mr. Charles Day's questions by asking a few others. First. He things gunpowder and nitro-glycerine an injury to the interests of the laboring man; but, I would like to ask, how would the miners come on without these powerful assistants to their labor? Second. He speaks of the rich as the only ones able to have sewing machines. Why is it, then, that nearly every person needing a machine has one? Next, he speaks of the riding plow as damaging to the laborer. Now, nearly every working man will dissent from this, as it is much easier work and does not require less men. I have been a hired laborer for two years. I may say that I know whereof I speak.—Clayton Harriman, Sioux Rapids, Iowa.

FRIENDS OF THE CLUB: Invention has entirely changed the farm and household labors in the last 50 years. Every invention lightens toil. The work that is required to be done by a woman is made much easier by the inventions of different machinery.—Lucretia M. Mericle, Box 26, Toledo, Iowa.

FRIENDS OF THE CLUB: On this question I take the affirmative. Very often a machine invented takes the place of several workmen, but the manufacture of that machine requires the erection of a factory—thus giving work to masons, etc.—and needs a force of workmen to run it, as in the case of farming machinery, etc. Then there are discoveries and inventions made that do not displace the mechanic, but, on the other hand, open new fields of labor, as the telegraph. Invention means progress and a greater variety of work.—Harry Davis, Englewood, Ill.

FRIENDS OF THE CLUB: Those opposed to inventions ask, if one man with a harvester can do the work of 20, while not work as hard as one would do in the old way, what becomes of the 19? That is easy to answer. With machinery more land is cultivated and more men consequently employed. Those who do not find work this way find it in the shops and manufactories, and in catering to the communities which spring up around them. As for sewing machines, any man with a heart don't want to see his mother and sister sit down and sew all the time, and instead of grumbling over this invention he would say "God bless Howe for what he has done for weak women." No young laboring man would want to take his best girl to ride in a springless buggy. No, he would take the inventor of the latest spring vehicle by the hand and call him his friend.—Hart S. Bronson, Sedalia, Mo.

CLUB WHISPERS.

Thanks to all who sent songs.—Eva Billings, Wetmore, Kan.

My father fought in our late war, in the navy, and takes THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE. We all think the world of it. I have been in Nantucket every Summer until last Summer, my mother and all her relations being born here. I will correspond with Jane Fowler, Gunter, Mo., on the subject proposed.—Clara S. Curtis, 46 Millmont St., Boston, Mass.

There is no paper like THE TRIBUNE, to my mind, and my sister, Katie E. Wright, agrees with me.—Thomas J. Allen, Commerce, Scott Co., Mo.

James A. Garfield rightfully stands a model for all aspiring American boys. He was simple, sincere, honest, just, benevolent and kind. God raised him up for a great and glorious mission. Friends of Liberty and Union will repair to his consecrated tomb to renew their vows of fidelity to their country and their God.—Papa was a soldier in the 22d Ohio.—L. E. Lawrence, Raymond, Neb.

I think the Russia-English question was handled splendidly, and like the Editor's conclusions. I am in favor of all kinds of machinery, and think the Indian has been treated a great deal worse than the negro, whose condition was improved even through slavery. Will Dr. C. B. Collar let us (the Club) hear from him. Would hear from Edgar Cooley and Edgar Bower.—M. Olive Green, Cavendish, Mo.

THE SONG WRITER STILL SINGS.

To Comrade J. A. Benedict and veteran readers of THE TRIBUNE, and all who enjoy the Conversation Club: To the inquiry of July 27 I would say that E. W. Locke still lives, and that he is as bright and smart as when we used to gather around him to listen to his soul-inspiring songs in the old Army of the Potomac. At a Reunion of the Maine veterans, held in Boston last March, Mr. Locke was present and entertained them by singing many of his old army songs. Mr. Locke lives in Chelsea, Mass., near the Soldiers' Home, and is a constant visitor there, and always welcomed by the old veterans, as he not only entertains them with song and story, but many times contributes to their comfort.—George T. Ranlett, Co. H, 24 Me. Cav., Gallop's Island, Boston, Mass.

Tribune Exchange.

To exchange: Sheet music, vocal or instrumental, for crazy silk patches—Annette McManis, Princeton, Ill.; shells for shells or Indian arrowheads—Lewis W. Jones, 163 Gale street, Akron, O.; from members of the C. C. living in Western Nebraska and Kansas in order to obtain information in regard to unimproved lands that can be obtained in other ways besides homesteading, as I am not old enough for that—Emma Snell, Ashland, Neb.; music for "Allegheny Park Waltz" and "Mocking Bird Waltz"—Sadie Gurm, West Finley, Washington Co., Pa.; a copy of the song "The Blue and the Gray" to those sending a 2-cent stamp for postage—Franklin Crail, Yeomister, Mass.; samples of darned lace for patterns—Mrs. F. A. Shepherd, Vineyard Haven Springs, N. Y.; choice mixed flower seeds for tulip bulbs, silver leaf and oak geraniums and double petunias for rooted plants, such as calecloria, lemon verbena, cineraria, smilax, cape myrtle, euphea, blue daisy, amaryllis or yellow oxalis; description of plants wanted—Mrs. M. C. Bramhall, Lime Hill, Bradford Co., Pa.; True's Illustrated Magazine for other magazines or curiosities—Mrs. M. Williams, Washington, Kan.

Information—Address Mrs. C. Lyons, Winfield, letter received, but no State—Mrs. M. Williams, Washington, Kan.; where "A Tribute to Ellsworth," words and music, may be found.—James F. Amen, 16th Iowa, Cascade, Iowa.

Have petrified wood and moss, Indian arrowheads and numerous relics to dispose of. Am a disabled soldier; served in prison; would hear from comrades.—John W. Manning, Adj't, Serg't Thompson Post, No. 235, Salineville, O.

Wanted, special correspondence: Letter from Nathan Chastes—Pauline Church, Sherburne, Ky.; letter from Frank Emery, will send the song, "Young Charlotte"—Lou Walker, Parkwood, Pa.; correspondents in Denver, Leadville or Georgetown, Col., and Moulton, Iowa, will exchange cards with members of the Club—Geneva, Box 83, Waldron, Mich.; letter from Mrs. Mollie Dinsmore, will send "O, Where is My Wandering Boy Tonight"—Almea Smoot, 619 South Carolina avenue southeast, Washington, D. C.; letters from girls from 14 to 18, J. H. Jackson, Bailey's Harbor, Wis.

Wanted, information: Name of the Chaplain of the 29th Mich.—B. Lillian Earl, Baltimore, Md.; to hear from C. S. Kelleson—Drew Goodrich, Sydney Thompson, and other members of Co. A, 3d Wis.—Chas. T. Lord, Adrian, Mich.; present address (through TRIBUNE) of Hon. D. W. Voorhees, Pension Committee, by J. L. B.; to hear from her father—Oscar Daniel Thorp, if living, or, if dead, from any who knew him—Mrs. Mattie Liona King, Cherokee, Cherokee Co., Iowa.

Special correspondence: Letters from ladies and gentlemen concerning mathematics, history, physics, etc.—Edgar Bowers, Bloomer, Wis.; from girls and boys, 16 or more—Clara Galloway, care Capt. Galloway, Tippecanoe, O.; from gentlemen, by an admirer of THE TRIBUNE—Emma Cook, 193 Klein street, Rochester, N. Y.; from boys and girls (16), by Kansas girl—Frankie Nims, Washington, Kan.; from members of the Club in Western States—Anna E. Benson, Waponsee, Ill.; from Pennsylvania ladies of 19 and under—Wm. A. Siegfield, East Mauch Chunk, Pa.; Carrie Stillwell, Middletown, N. J.

Wanted—Letters: Misses Bertha Obermiller and Della Obermiller, Shelby, O.; also, Grace D. Sherman, Collins Center, Erie Co., N. Y., together with the words of "Swanee River" and "Sweet Violets," is a daughter of John Sherman, 116th N. Y., wounded at Port Hudson, and "a school ma'am who believes in dancing and wearing bangs," and has been a silent reader of THE TRIBUNE for a long time, from which she has derived much information.

General Correspondence: Letters, by one who thinks THE TRIBUNE the best paper in the United States—Henry L. Heiman, 118 East King St., York, Pa.; by a member of Co. E, 1st Iowa N. G., and son of a veteran of Co. I, 1st Mo., which was nearly annihilated in Hooker's charge at Lookout Mountain—Charles Lynch, Carroll, Iowa; Will B. Connolly, Manchester, O., who thinks THE TRIBUNE the best paper in America.

Will lovers of good church music send me the names of two or three good, new hymns, set to music, and where they can be found?—L. Berryhill, Co. D, 114th Ill., Hiawatha, Kan.

To any member of the Conversation Club who will send us the best original composition, on any subject, on or before the 1st of October, 1885, we will send as a prize any one of the following books: "Lucile," "Lady of the Lake," Dryden, Moore, Mrs. Browning, or Thomas Hood's poems. To second best either of the following works: "Arabian Nights Entertainments," "Scottish Chiefs," "Tom Brown's School Days at Rugby," "David Copperfield," and "Waverly Novels." The above books are bound in best manner and handsomely illustrated. Address—Garver & Walsh, Monticello, Piatt Co., Ill.

Our Young Recruits.

My father has the sword my great-grandfather carried in the Revolution. Grandfather was in the War of 1812, and father in the 1st Ohio H. A., and two brothers in the 53d Ohio. I am nine.—Minnie Dell Cooke, Paterson, O.

I am a little boy nine years old, and belong to the Drum Corps of the Sons of Veterans. The members are Harry Andrews, Harry Parker, Herman Woodworth, Ally Gugler and myself. Our teacher is Mr. Andrew. None of our Corps are over 12 years old. My papa was in the 24 Iowa. He was in the battles of Shiloh and Fort Donelson, and was with Gen. Grant, and we feel very sorry that he is dead, for he was a brave soldier and good man. I like THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.—Ralph McKinnie, Moline, Ill.

BRAIN-RACKERS

From Our Young Contributors.

[TO CONTRIBUTORS: In sending answers name No. of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE in which the puzzle is found. Answers of guessers may be forwarded within a week after receiving this TRIBUNE. Do not make numerical enigmas of your own names. Answers must accompany all puzzles forwarded.

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLES.

No. 40—Astronical Rebus—"Sometimes a shooting comet, flaming, goes around the sun."

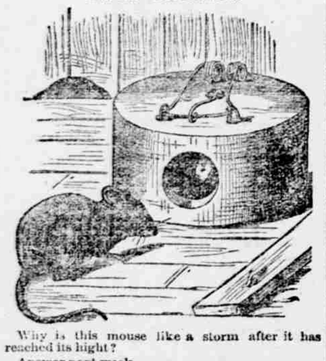
No. 41—"In order to be wise, be content to learn."

No. 42.—REBUS.

An article of commerce.

Answer next week.

No. 43.—CONUNDRUM.



Why is this mouse like a storm after it has reached its high?

Answer next week.

Charity.

[*Texas Siftings.*]

A wealthy Dallas lady, just coming from church, was accosted by a ragged urchin, who begged her for a dime.

"And what would you do with the dime if I gave you one?" asked the lady.

"Please, ma'am, I'd buy bread," replied the lad.

"Poor child," piously observed the lady. "You know not that man liveth not by bread alone. I have no dime with me, but if you will come to my house I'll give you a couple of tracts written expressly for little boys on the awfulness of Gluttony."

SUNDAY MEDITATION.

Practical Duties Taught by a Study of the International Sunday School Lesson Appointed for Aug. 30.—1 Ki., 21: 4-19.

[One reading these notes should first carefully study the paragraph from the Holy Scriptures as indicated above.]

Elijah left Mount Horeb and went to Abelmeholah. (1 Ki., 19: 16, 19.) This is not far from the Jordan, on the west side, about 10 miles south of Bethshan. He found Elisha plowing. Elijah cast his mantle on the farmer. Probably explanations were made. More was understood by the act of Elijah than *we* might infer. The mantle pointed to the prophetic office. Elisha at once knew he was called to the work of being a religious teacher. Bidding good-by to his family and neighbors he followed Elijah. The 20th chapter gives an account of the two battles between Ahab and Ben-hadad, King of Syria.

The story of Naboth is our lesson. Seven years have passed since we saw Elijah so cast down at Mount Horeb. Ahab and Jezebel are still alive. The King had a palace in Samaria, and another in Jezreel, 25 miles north. Near the Jezreel palace there lived a man by the name of Naboth. He was one of the 7,000 who refused to be idolaters. (19: 18.) He seems to have been a well-to-do vinedresser. The King wanted to enlarge the grounds of his palace, and was anxious to secure Naboth's vineyard. (Isa., 5: 8.) Ahab offered either to give Naboth another vineyard, or to pay a fair price for the one Naboth owned. Both propositions were declined. Ahab's offer was proper, providing he would be true to the principles which, according to Jewish law, governed in the buying and selling of real estate. Property was valued in proportion to the years to intervene between purchase and the jubilee year, which was every 50th year. (Lev., 24: 8-13.) No titles could go beyond said year. All property must then revert to the original owners or their heirs, and the date of their reinvestment was indeed a jubilee to them. (Read Lev., 25: 14-17, 23-28; Nu., 27: 7, 36: 7, and Eze., 46: 18.) Naboth thought Ahab would not respect the Mosaic law, and so believed he would offend God by parting with his vineyard to a man practically a heathen. So Naboth answered Ahab thus: "The Lord forbid it me, that I should give [part with, sell] the inheritance of my fathers unto thee." The Lord did forbid such a transaction by the Mosaic law. Naboth meant, "May the Lord prevent (save) me from violating his law as to selling real estate, and so keep me from offending God."

The Douay Bible puts it thus: "The Lord be merciful to me, and not let me give thee the inheritance of my fathers." Naboth wanted preventing grace. Some nations have sought by law to force subjects to keep their estates intact. The Locrian policy forbade the selling of real estate save in cases of notorious misfortune, and the Leucadians would not allow ancient patrimonies to change owners save by primogeniture. Ahab went to his palace "heavy and displeased," according to the *Received Version;* angry and fretting, in the Douay; pouting and sulking, in plain English. Mad and sad, he threw himself down on his bed with his face turned toward the wall, either to conceal his vexation or to expose it so as to elicit sympathy, or out of shame at his state of mind. And he would not eat; a very natural effect of anger or grief. (2 Sam., 12: 16, 17, 21.) It would seem he was given to such fits. (20: 43.) His wife, Jezebel, noticed how agitated her husband was, and inquired the reason. He explained. She replied: "Who is King? Who rules this Kingdom?" She was in the spirit of one who, to day, blurts out: "Who runs this machine?" And we find very soon who the ruler of Israel was. It was neither Ahab nor Naboth, but Jezebel. There is good reason for rendering the question (V. 7), "Dost thou now govern the Kingdom of Israel?" ironically. The Douay rather inclines to such understanding, translating thus: "Thou art of great authority indeed, and governest well the Kingdom of Israel." As much as to say, "You are a bright ruler! You are of great importance. People will tremble at the very thought of you; wont they, though?" "Cheer up!" says Jezebel; "I will attend to this matter. You shall have the vineyard." Now, we reach the plot of the Queen-consort. What must have been the moral state of things, when Jezebel could successfully plan murder with the elders and nobles of the city! "Dux femina facti." (2 Ki., 9: 34.) All at once a pious streak comes over the Queen, and, behold! it takes a Jewish stamp. She is shocked to hear one of her subjects, Naboth by name, has been guilty of cursing both the true God and the King of Israel. Something must be done to avert national calamity on account of the vengeance of Jehovah. (Nothing is said about Baal being offended.) Naboth must be brought to trial forthwith. So she issued letters, signing the name of the King and using his seal (falsehood and forgery!) and sent them to the elders and nobles (we would say Mayor and Common Council) of the city, ordering that a fastday be appointed to beseech God not to punish all the people on account of the sin of one, and also commanding that Naboth be tried, condemned and executed immediately.

To convict a man of blasphemy, it was necessary to have two witnesses. (Nu., 35: 30; Deu., 17: 6, 19: 15; Mt. 26: 60.) Jezebel knew this law, and so she directs the city authorities to secure two false witnesses to swear against Naboth. Belial is a general name for an evil spirit, and so, as an adjective, the word means reckless, wicked, worthless. The Douay Bible renders the 13th verse thus: "And bringing two men, sons of the devil, they made them sit [swear] against him [Naboth]; and they, like men of the devil, bore witness against him." It can hardly be supposed men could be found so far gone in depravity as to sit about judicial buildings ready to be hired to give false evidence, and that specially when a good man's life is at stake. (Mt., 26: 60.) The meaning of the word "set," in V. 10, is suborn, and such is the rendering in the Douay. Subornation is the crime of persuading men to the sin of perjury. The Douay, in V. 13, says: "They *made* them sit against him." How like the case of St. Stephen is that of Naboth! (Acts, 6: 11.) The orders of Jezebel were obeyed. Naboth was arrested and "set on high," *i. e.,* was put into the prisoner's box, which in a court is quite conspicuous. The witnesses appeared. There was no cross-examination. Conviction was foregone. "Guilty!" was the finding. At once, he was led out from the city (Lev., 24: 23; Jos., 7: 24; Mt., 27: 32, 33; Acts, 7: 58; Heb., 13: 12,) and stoned to death. (Lev., 24: 16; Acts, 7: 59.) Word was sent to the Queen that her orders were executed. She tells Ahab, and he goes to Jezreel to take possession. It is clear from the 16th verse that the King and Queen, during the fast and trial, were at Samaria. From 2 Ki., 9: 26, we find not only Naboth but all his heirs were slain, (as in Achan's case; Jos., 7: 24,) and hence, Ahab was sure of no trouble in the jubilee year. All heirs deceased, the property would revert (or escheat) to the Government. In the case of crime, which affects the blood, and which, hence, may be inherited by offspring, governments at times have demanded the confiscation of the property of the guilty party, even though the children suffered in no way save by losing rights of inheritance to the paternal estate. Lands in such instances confiscated to the crown. (Cf., the case of Mephiboseth, 2 Sa., 9: 7.) In our land, having no jubilee year, and with no settled principle of successive inheritance as to homesteads, it is an easy matter to secure private property for public purposes. If trouble arise as to conditions of transfer,—*e. g.,* as to price,—appraisers are appointed and the owner obliged to give title. It is a principle of common law that the public good must take precedence of private convenience. It does not appear that Ahab needed Naboth's estate for the public good. He was governed by a selfish, mean whim, and we cannot suppose Ahab ignorant of the strategy of Jezebel. See the contrast: Ahab spares Benhadad (20: 34, 42) and slays Naboth—lets a conquered Syrian (heathen) enemy go unharmed and kills a true Israelite—and offends God in both acts. If Ahab were aware of the plot, it is curious Jezebel should write letters in his name and use his seal; but we remember the state of mind in which we find the King, and also the executive fury of Jezebel. It is quite probable Ahab knew all the particulars. If so, Jezebel used the name and seal of the King without being guilty of forgery. Practically, she did the work as the secretary of Ahab. We cannot, however, imagine Jezebel would pause at the commission of forgery. Further, Ahab had learned to consent to any proposition of Jezebel. Doubtless, there was no general understanding of Jezebel's plans. She probably had one or more trusted ministers, to whom alone she made known the plot. The masses supposed Naboth guilty, though it must have taken Jezreel by surprise to learn Naboth was so wicked as to curse God and the King.

No one can study the case of Naboth without being impressed with many practical suggestions:

1. Never be guilty of blasphemy. Keep the third commandment. Taking God's name in vain must be a grievous sin in his sight, or he would not attach to it so great penalty as the being stoned to death. Had Naboth been guilty, his execution would have been legal and, judged by the Mosaic law, just.

2. Do not speak irreverently of rulers. Says the Mosaic law, "Thou shalt not revile the gods [meaning the judges, magistrates, etc.] nor curse the ruler of thy people." (Ex., 22: 28.) One charge made against St. Stephen was that he spoke words derogatory of Moses. (Acts, 6: 11.) St. Peter, writing of certain unrighteous persons, states as proof: "Presumptuous are they, selfwilled; they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities." (2 Pet. 2: 10. Cf. Jude, 8.) Had it been shown truthfully, Naboth was guilty of disrespect to his King, punishment would have been deserved. The refusal to sell his vineyard to Ahab contrary to God's law, was a right and duty of Naboth. True, it maddened the King and made him sad; but no subject of a ruler is obliged to yield to the whims of the King—to his unreasonable demands, and certainly no subject can disobey God to please any dignitary. But we should in society cultivate exalted ideas of our rulers and then match our ideas by our ballots, thus securing rulers worthy of respect. Being electors, we are responsible as to whom we shall have for governors, and this fact should modify our criticisms and censures. It does not become men to find fault with their own work.

3. Never condemn persons without evidence. The Mosaic law was very guarded in this respect. Acts, 25: 16, shows the Roman law demanded clear proof of guilt before punishment.

4. The court should be fair, never winking at false evidence. What a corrupt court that must have been before whom Naboth was tried! It was at the command of an audacious, cruel woman. It is well, too, that judges hold their tenure of office independent of the executive power, so that not even the highest official of the nation can escape its decisions, and so that the court itself need not be intimidated by any threatened harm.

5. If you be witnesses, tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

6. Be brave for the right. Let not even Kings daunt you from duty. It required courage on the part of Naboth to decline the proposition of Ahab. Naboth had, in his patrimony, a charge from God. He would do violence to the Mosaic law, if he sold his property in a way contrary to that provision of real estate which required it to revert to his heirs in the jubilee year. Doubtless, Naboth could have made money in the transaction. Ahab seems to have been generous in his offers. But Naboth was conscientious and courageous.

7. Respect the consciences of others. Ahab should have considered the religious scruples of Naboth. It would seem he did not; for in the fourth verse we notice he says nothing to Jezebel about the reason why Naboth declined to sell. The explanation would probably have had no effect on the Queen, as would have been the case had Naboth's scruples risen from any reverence for Baal. She cared less for another's conscience than did Ahab.

8. Look out for the beginnings of sin. Evil developes. Notice the steps in the case of Jezebel—covetousness, forgery, lying, murder, theft. Specially look out and not infringe on the 10th commandment. Though the last, its violation may lead to the breaking of every other. "Thou shalt not covet."

9. Do not practice hypocrisy. The case of Jezebel shows how one can invest himself in the cloak of religion for evil purposes. She was conversant with the Mosaic law. She would have the people in sympathy with Naboth's death. He must have a fair trial. It must be shown he was guilty according to that law. Everything was proceeded with regularly. Witnesses swore—the law was quoted—the penalty was described in the words of Moses. He must be put to death outside the city, and it must be done by stoning. Is there anything more diabolical? Remember, Jezebel was a Baalite, and hated everything Mosaic and Jewish. She knew Naboth was a true Jew, and she planned so that he should be put to death by his own law.

10. Do not marry a Jezebel. Ahab was not so bad as weak. Jezebel stirred him up to evil. (21: 25.) Happy man whose wife ever points him to good! (Pro., 18: 22.) Some men can stem against all the persuasions of an evil companion. So did Job. (Job, 2: 9, 10.) It is stated as a reason why Jehoram did evil, was because he married Ahab's daughter. (2 Ki., 8: 18.) Who does not remember how Lady Macbeth stirs up her husband to murder the King of Scotland? He intimated, "We may fail." She answers, "We fail! but screw your courage to the sticking place, and we'll not fail." He hesitates. She exclaims, "Infirm of purpose! Give me the daggers!" Great men often make fearful mistakes in the matter of marriage. Think of John Wesley, Byron, Bulwer. We must not forget the womanly, wifely side of Jezebel. She noticed her husband felt sad, and, out of real sympathy, it would seem, was anxious to know the cause. This was well so far, but no woman should be so concerned for her husband's happiness as to manipulate the robbery and murder of some other wife's companion in marriage. A man's future joy in this world and largely in the world to come depends on his uxorial choice.

11. Be contented. Naboth was wealthy. He had two palaces and ample income. He sees a man happy in his vineyard and thinks he must have that person's property. He makes himself utterly miserable because the vinedresser prefers to keep his ancestral home and to hand it down to his children as he had received it from his forefathers. Some one has said, "Discontent is a sin that is its own punishment." With an elegant home on the hill of Samaria, which Omri bought and adorned (16: 24); with a palace built of ivory (22: 39); just fresh from victories over Benhadad (Chap. 20); the occupant of a throne; with gardens, parks, fountains; with royal resources;—yet, we see Ahab moody, whining, sad, unable to eat, because he cannot have in addition a bit of land owned by one of his subjects. To a contented man, says Gray,

"The meanest floweret of the vale,
The simplest note that swells the gale,
The common sun, the air, the skies,
To him are opening paradise."

In Henry VIII, Shakspere wrote: "Our content is our best having." Happy for Ahab could he have gotten into the spirit of the widow of Helvetius, who said to Napoleon: "You cannot conceive how much happiness there can be found on three acres of land." What philosophy in Mackintosh's statement: "It is right to be contented with what we have; not with what we are."

THE QUESTION SQUAD.

Comrades' Queries and Replies—Odds and Ends of Information.

Mrs. Lavina Yoller, Metamora, Ind., would like to know the whereabouts of her husband, Frederick Yoller, who is supposed to be somewhere in Arizona. — Wm. Martin, Eaton, Ind., wants the address of the Regimental Surgeon of the 1st Iowa Cav.——Henry S. Austin, Free Soil, Mich., would like to hear from some of the comrades in Florida with a view to settling there.——Othello Church, Co. F, 30th Iowa, Wakefield, Kan., wants the address of Lieut. Martin, who had command of the brigade at Rome, Ga., in 1864.——Edward Curran, Le Roy, Mo., wants the address of Eugene Wessenger, Serg't, Co. B, 11th U. S. Inf.——Any members of the 35th Ind. or 23d Ill. who were prisoners at Andersonville, and who remember "Sharkey," can learn from him by addressing John W. Barnes, Keogh, Custer Co., Mont.——J. W. Kessler, Fairfield, Ill., has in his possession a gold badge, shield shape, with the following inscription: "G. E. Blackman, Co. H, 34th Reg't, Mass. Vols." Comrade Kessler will be glad to return the badge to any of Comrade Blackman's friends on application.——S. B. Middleton, Sergeant, Co. F, 16th Vet. C., Jackson, Mich., would like to hear from any member of that company, and also from any member of 94th N. Y.——Any comrade acquainted with the circumstances connected with the wounding of the late Capt. John A. Ettinger, Co. C, 172d Pa., caused by the bursting of a 12-pound gun at Fort Yorktown, Yorktown, Va., will confer a favor on his widow by addressing her at North Clarendon, Warren Co., Pa.——Wm. Brown, North Sterling, Conn., wants the name and address of all surviving members of Co. I, 29th Me.——James M. Baker, National Military Home, Dayton, O., wants the address of Rob't Davis, Co. F, W. Va. Inf.——W. H. Wolfe, Co. E, 8th Iowa, Lyons, Kan., would like to learn from some comrade something about the prison-life of his brother, Benj. F. Wolfe, Sergeant, Co. E, 8th Iowa, who was captured near Jackson, Miss., in July, 1863, and was taken to Libby Prison, Belle Isle and Andersonville, where he died in June, 1864.——H. C. Bradley, Wyanet, Ill., would like the addresses of Geo. Hill and Austin P. Rood, Co. I, 9th Ohio.——J. M. Lovejoy, South Valley, Otsego Co., N. Y., wants the addresses of John H. Brandon, Color-Sergeant, 123d N. Y., and Treat Young, Sergeant, Co. I, 121st N. Y.

Nervous, Debilitated Men,

You are allowed *a free trial of thirty days* of the use of Dr. Dye's Celebrated Voltaic Belt with Electric Suspensory Appliances, for the speedy relief and permanent cure of Nervous Debility, loss of Vitality and Manhood, and all kindred troubles. Also, for many other diseases. Complete restoration to health, vigor and manhood guaranteed. No risk is incurred. Illustrated pamphlet, with full information, terms, etc., mailed free my addressing Voltaic Belt Co., Marshall, Mich.

OUR RURAL TOPICS.

Some Practical Suggestions for Our Agricultural Readers.

THOROUGH CULTIVATION.

Good farming does not consist in seeing how much land can be skimmed over without any reference to its productiveness, but in so farming as to grow the most on the least possible space. Herein lies the secret of good and successful farming—obtaining the most from the least space; but how many of our farmers follow such a policy? The larger number of them rather seem to be trying to extract the substance from the largest possible surface without making a corresponding attempt at restoring elements of fertility to the soil. This method of farming is entirely too common, and is what has impoverished so many naturally good farms. Too much land, as a rule, is under cultivation on almost every farm to make it the most productive. Land will not retain its fertility when cropped year after year, without a suitable return is made in the shape of manure, and where too much is under plow no farmer can find or make enough manure to keep up the original fertility of his land. But there are other means of robbing land of its fertility and soon making it unproductive, and that is too close pasturing. This is just as bad as too much cropping. It is a deteriorating process, and makes land hard and unproductive. The stock run around more on poor pasture and tramp and pack the soil so that the grass will not grow so well, and the sun beats on the unprotected roots and burns and injures them. This can all be avoided by not pasturing so closely, and, besides, the growth of succulent herbage will increase each year. Then it is wisdom not to attempt to graze too much stock on a given number of acres, nor to plow and crop more than can be kept in the highest state of fertility by suitable fertilization.—*National Stockman.*

FEEDING YOUNG CALVES.

The feeding of young calves is now a timely subject of consideration. Full feeding up to the point of perfect digestion and assimilation should be the aim. It is easy to discover when this point is reached. The condition of the bowel discharge is an accurate test. As soon as the dung has an offensive order digestion is impaired, and either the food is given to excess or the character of it is not healthful. As a rule sour food is not wholesome for calves. If one goes to the cattle markets and visits the calf pens the "buttermilk calves" are readily found by their filthy odor. The calves may be plump and appear all right, but the contrary will soon appear when a purchaser gets them home. The fasting will soon affect injuriously the soft, flacid, unhealthy flesh, and the calves will fail in a serious manner, and time and food will be wasted in bringing them into condition again. This experience should warn the owners of calves to study carefully the feeding, and to use only the best of food. It is easy to have sweet milk for the calves, and it will pay to warm this to 90 degrees. At this time calves are sufficiently advanced to take a considerable ration of meal, but the full feeding of this should be cautiously reached by gradual increase of the ration from a small and safe quantity. The moment diarrhea occurs feeding should stop for forty-eight hours, and then small doses of hot sweet milk only should be given.

AN EXPERIMENT WORTH TRYING.

The *American Dairyman* says: "Let a drop of fresh milk fall into a glass of pure water. If the milk promptly disseminates itself through the water, the cow that yielded that milk is not with calf, but if it sinks to the bottom of the glass as it falls upon the water, and does not produce but little of a milky cloud, the cow is pregnant. The specific gravity and viscidity of the albuminous milk being heavier than water, thus retains the drop of milk and causes it to sink. We advise dairymen to make a note of this and give it a test. If reliable the information may be of great value to them."

NOTELETS.

—August is the month to bud fruit trees. This a process so simple that every one who has even a small garden should learn to bud his own trees. It is better to bud than to graft small trees. If the bud should fail to live it does not injure the tree so much as it does when a graft fails to live. The bud heals better than a graft, leaving the tree in a condition less liable to decay; and a bud sends up a better shaped stem than a graft. On large trees budding is not as desirable. It is much more labor to change a tree by grafting, and when changed it is more difficult to prevent shoots growing from the original stock.—*Mass. Ploughman*

—A correspondent of the *Rural New Yorker,* speaking of the sheep business in Kansas, says men who have made 75 per cent. from their flocks are now grumbling and kic