

**Miscellany.**

**THE SECURITY OF DESOLATION.**

He who hath seen his grain-fields gather  
 light  
 Heeds not the withering of the garden  
 flowers;  
 He grieves not at the day's withdrawing  
 light  
 Who in a dungeon numbers his dim hours;  
 He feareth not the storm upon his head,  
 Whose garments with the rough salt wave  
 are soaked,  
 And he whose fire within his house is dead,  
 Into the outer air will go uncloaked!

So he whose life some weak, loved hand has  
 taken,  
 Does not the shaft of banded myrmidon,  
 Nor trembles when his citadel is shaken;  
 For, treading all, he hath no time to shun;  
 The Night, the Cold, the Death, the Wound  
 Obscure,  
 That men call Death, unmoved he shall  
 endure!

—Edith M. Thomas in Scribner's Magazine.

**WHAT JEANNE D'ARC DID.**

Whatever else is uncertain, this at least is clear, the maid of Orleans possessed military genius of the highest order. She had the supreme gifts of great commanders; the technical mastery of the art of directing artillery fire, of planning campaigns, and the gift of foreseeing their exact duration and result. That she had these gifts there is no dispute. The ablest of the French generals formally testified under oath to the extraordinary ability she displayed in war. The Duke d'Alencon made the campaign of the Loire at her side, and said of her, "In everything except the making of war she was as simple as any other young girl. But in war she was very skillful, either in the bearing of the spear or in mustering an army, in appointing the order of battle, or in the disposing of artillery. All were astounded to see her display the skill and foresight of a captain with the experience of twenty or thirty years of service. But they admired above all her use of artillery, in which she exhibited consummate ability."

For an illiterate maiden of eighteen, who had never sat in a saddle or worn armour, to command an army of 10,000 men with such brilliant success as to destroy the established power of the English in France, was clearly an achievement of the first importance, the story of which has an incomparable fascination for the modern world. The English in France at the beginning of 1429 bore to the French people a relation similar to that of the Germans at the beginning of 1871. Talbot, the English Achilles of that earlier day, was as great a military authority as Moltke in the later one. The victories of Poitiers and Agincourt were as decisive as Metz and Sedan. After a war of a hundred years the dominance of England had been accepted almost as a degree of destiny. In 1421 a solemn treaty had made over the crown of France to the English king. English garrisons occupied Paris, Rouen and Bordeaux. English authority was supreme over more territory than the Germans covered in 1871, in their most venturesome marches. The French had neither money nor men, sovereign nor prestige. Their nominal king was vacillating and incapable. His councillors dreaded success even more than defeat. Yet out of the midst of this hopeless prostration Jeanne arose, and in the course of a single year she transformed everything. She delivered Orleans, crowned the king, broke the prestige of English victory, and recreated and regenerated France. Her work was not done in a corner; it was accomplished under the eyes of the world. It gave an immediate and definite change to the whole course of the historical development of two of the greatest of civilized nations. It is a living and palpable force at this day. —[Review of Reviews.

**A GOOD WORD FOR OWLS AND HAWKS.**

More than \$100,000 was expended by the state of Pennsylvania in bounties for the scalps of noxious enemies of farmers. Dr. Battles of Girard writes in the Examiner that fully \$65,000, or about two-thirds of the whole sum, was paid for the destruction of two of the farmer's friends, hawks and owls. It was proved conclusively to the legislature by naturalists and ornithologists that where hawks or owls destroyed one chicken or song bird, they destroyed 25 mice, shrews and moles. In fact, the examination of hundreds of stomachs of these birds demonstrated that these small vermin constituted most of their living.

It is surprising that farmers are so lamentably ignorant of the value of the hawk and owl. The owl, being a nocturnal bird, is especially fitted to pursue the smaller rodents, whose ravages upon field, grain, root and orchard are so well known that farmers have from time immemorial exclaimed against the destructiveness of these quadrupeds, whose annual devastations cause the money value of the property destroyed to swell into thousands of dollars.

Any fruit grower who has planted a young orchard knows what almost incalculable damage mice and rabbits can do in a single winter. I have had apple trees eight inches in diameter girdled by mice from the ground a foot up—trees that had taken a quarter of a life time to grow. I recall one winter nearly 20 years ago when we lost nearly 1000 apple trees in this way.

While the farmer is asleep, his ill-repaid friend, the owl, is fitting with noiseless wing through his young and thrifty orchard or grain field, swooping now and then to the ground to grasp in his talons or beak this little furry rodent whose visitations cause the agriculturist so much damage.

If the owl occasionally takes a spring chicken or an old hen, do not fear around and condemn the whole

owl family. Just simply say, "There is 25 or 50 cents paid our old friend for the hundreds of dollars of good he has done."—[County Gentleman.

**DECLINE OF MARRIAGE.**

Miss Susan B. Anthony is quoted as saying that we are on the eve of an era of unmarried women. The grounds for her opinion are that under modern social conditions young women are becoming more and more self-dependent. The conclusion she draws, however, is not quite evident. The assumption that self-support on the part of young women causes them to regard marriage with increasing distavor implies that they have sought marriage in the past for sordid and selfish purposes. This is a misrepresentation. It ignores the influence of affinity and affection, which have generally dictated matrimonial alliances. The most that can be said of the general dependence of young women in the past is that it has narrowed in a measure the natural choice of her heart. Self-help in young women means simply more freedom for the exercise of feminine tendencies. It is absurd to say that such freedom checks or smother's natural instincts. Its effects is just the reverse unless counteracted by other influences. It gives the full scope to the affections. It makes ill-sorted unions less probable. It places young women as regards social relations on a level with young men.

Facts bear out this conclusion. Marriage may be entered upon at a later stage of life now than formerly, but among the masses of the American people it is as common as ever. If marriage has lessened in any material degree at all, or if there is a growing aversion to it clearly marked, it will be found among the wealthy classes who are governed by social ambitions or among young men who are either unable to support families or are anxious to make a "brilliant match." That intelligent, self-supporting young women show, as a rule, any such disinclination, is nowhere manifest.—[Minneapolis Times.

**A ROYAL HOUSEHOLD.**

Whitaker's Almanac for 1893 contains a vast amount of useful information. Some of the details relating to the Queen's household are very curious. The lord steward receives £2000 a year for his services, as does also the lord chamberlain. The examiner of plays draws £320 per annum; the bargemaster receives £60; the keeper of the swans gets £30; the pages of the black stairs, £250; the pages of the presence, £200; pages' men, £100; royal housekeepers, £120; the master of the Queen's band, £300; physicians in ordinary, £200; dentist to the household, £70; Poet Laureate, £72; clerk of the closet, chapel royal (bishop of Rochester), £7. The master of the horse is a very important personage indeed, receiving £2500. The equerries in ordinary draw £500 to £600. The bed-chamber women get £300. Some of the titles sound strange to American ears, as: Gentleman usher of black rod, painter in ordinary, surveyor of pictures, master of the music, Her Majesty's body-guard of yeomen of the guard, serjeant trumpeter, hereditary grand almoner, lady rider, master of the buckhounds, whippers-in, acting mistresses of the robes, groom of the robes, Lord Warden of the stanneries, and groom of the stole (household of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales). These positions, in many cases, are filled by titled noblemen and ladies of high degree.

**BELGIUM'S BIG GAS BILL.**

The people of Belgium on May 1, 1893, put their clocks back seventeen minutes to conform to the time of the Greenwich meridian, but they still go to bed at the same hour by the clock as they did before the change. A Belgian who used to seek his couch punctually at 8 p. m. Belgian time now hops into bed at 8 p. m. Greenwich time. But 8 p. m. Greenwich time is 8 17 p. m. Belgian time; so that the Belgian really goes to bed seventeen minutes later than he did before. The change of clocks made no difference to the sun. As a result of all this the gas bill of the nation has increased \$1,000,000 in fifteen months, the nation sitting up so much later into the night. When the truth is known there will doubtless be a movement for going back to the old time, in the interest of economy. It will be forcibly resisted, of course, by the gas companies, who are strongly suspected of being at the bottom of the time-changing business, not only in Belgium but elsewhere.

**A "LADY COWBOY."**

In Pratt county, Dakota, lives Gertrude Petan, who is known among the residents of that neighborhood as the "lady cowboy." Her father owns a ranch and a large number of cattle, and much of the care of these devolves upon his eighteen year-old daughter. Dressed in the fashion prevalent among cowboys, and wearing a wide-brimmed sombrero and long gauntlet gloves, she rides all day about the ranch, mounted on the wildest broncho, taking care of the cattle as well as any man could do, even rescuing them when they are mired along the streams where they graze. Her duties frequently take her thirty or forty miles from home, and she has full charge of all the cattle on her father's ranch.—[Harper's Bazar.

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