THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT.

The following is probably the finest grandiloquent paraphrase in existence. Observe how the author avoids tautology—always reiterating the same idea but never repeating the same language. Even the simple name of John is expressed in English, French, German and Russian, while the poor cow, dog, cat and rat are rolled over and over through the complicated verbosity. The whole picture is the work of scholarship and patient genius.

Behold the mansion reared by dædal Jack.

See the malt stored in many a plethoric sack,
In the proud cirque of Ivan's bivouac.

Mark how the rat's felonious fangs invade
The golden stores in John's pavilion laid.

Anon, with velvet foot and Tarquin stride,
Subtle Grimalkin to his quarry glides—
Grimalkin grim, that slew the fierce rodent
Whose tooth insidious Johann's sackcloth rent.

Lo! now the deep-mouthed canine foe's assault,
That vexed the avenger of the stolen malt,
Stored in the hallowed precincts of the hall.
That rose complete at Jack's creative call.

Here stalks impetuous Cow with crumpled horn,
Whereon the exacerbating hound was torn,
Who bayed the feline slaughter beast that slew
The rat predacious whose keen fangs ran through
The textile fibres that involved the grain
That lay in flam' inviolate domain.

Here walks forlorn the Damsel crowned with rue,
Lactiferous spoils from vaccine dugs who drew
Of that corniculate beast whose tortuous horn
Tossed to the clouds, in fierce, vindictive scorn,
The barrowing hound whose braggart bark and stir
Aroused the lithe spine and reared the indignant fur
Of Pan, that with vermicidal claw
Struck the weird RATKIN whose insatiate maw
Lay reeking malt that sent in Ivan's courts we saw.

Robed in senescent garb that seemed in sooth
Too long a prey to Chronos' iron tooth,
Behold the man whose amorous lips inclina,
Full with young Eros's occulative sign,
To the lorn maiden whose lact-albic hand a
Drew albu-lactic wealth from lacteal glands
Of the immortal bovine, by whose horn,
Distort, to realm ethereal was borne
The beast catulean, vexer of that sly
Ulysses quadrupedal who made die
The old mordacious rat that dared devour
Antecedaneous ale in John's domestic bower.

Lo, here with hirsute honors doffed, succinct
Of saponaceous locks, the priest who linked
In Hymen's golden bands the torn unthrift
Whose means exiguous starved from many a rift,
Even as he kissed the virgin all forlorn,
Who milked the cow with implicated horn,
Who in flow wrath the canine torturer skied
That dared to vex the insidious murieide
Who let the aural effluence through the pelt
Of the sly rat that robbed the palace Jack had built.

The lund, cantankerous shanghai comes at last,
Whose shouts aroused the shore ecclesiast
Who sealed the vows of Hymen's sacrament
To him who, robed in garments indigent,
Exoculates the damsel lachrymose,
The emulator of that horned brute morose
That tossed the dog that worried the cat that kilt
The rat that ate the malt that lay in the house that Jack built.

Spring Duties.

The advent of warm weather brings a great accumulation of work to the housewife; and usually a person is not feeling adequate to any addition of care and labor at this season. There is a feeling of languor and depression that causes one to shrink from exertion. Physiological reasons account for this feeling of half-sickness very philosophically, but we have no time to analyze either cause or effect, for a multitude of things are waiting for attention; if we can possibly get time to go out and take the morning air for half an hour it will do a great deal toward making us comfortable for that day. All the blankets, mittens, mufflers and knit goods that have been used through the cold season need looking after and mending, besides washing and packing away for summer. Nubias and white crocheted goods are best cleaned by rubbing in wheat bran and well brushed; they look fresh and new and never full up. So many things there are to do that the only way is to take it easy and not try to accomplish too much at once, so that courage will hold out to the end. What work we do needs to be well done in order that there be no waste or spoil to mar our future comfort. Carbolic acid and spirits of ammonia freely used will save a great expenditure of strength and time in the spring cleaning, besides rendering the air pure, and the house sweet.

Whitewashing is a necessary part of this season's work. It is not necessary for the wife or mistress to do it herself. A woman who undertakes to whitewash is very foolish to make a martyr of herself, and a man who would permit his wife to do it shows a lack either of affection or common sense. Let him take his brush and try it himself and see how he likes it, and then think whether it is suitable for a woman to do such work.

Tacking up and putting down carpets is hard enough work, but harmless compared to whitewashing. Spots of grease can be washed out of carpets with hot water and ammonia and rubbed with a cloth thoroughly. Spots on wall paper can be removed by applying a thick coat of boiling hot starch and left to dry a day or two and brushed off the paper will be left clean and bright; where it is smoked badly wheat bran tied up in a thick cloth and rubbed over the surface will remove it and make it clean. Sand and soap spoils paint, and should never be used, as a few drops of ammonia on a cloth is far nicer and does the work easier and quicker; ten cents worth of ammonia is of more value in cleaning house than three gallons of soap and a hired girl a week.

One great trouble with the ladies is this; they do not care to try any new ways of doing their work; they jog on in the old beaten track and leave all the new improvements and inventions to be applied and used by their husbands, whereas housework is as much lightened and improved by science and experiments as the agricultural department. Knowledge is power just as much in housework as in any other pursuit or branch of business, and certainly housewives need to avail themselves of all the helpful powers that can be obtained to lighten the burden of care and labor. St. Paul says that "cleanliness is next to godliness;" that it is as essential to health and happiness is certainly true, but we must remember that the apostle was an old bachelor, and not a great admirer of the women; very possibly he had been jilted by one of them in his early manhood, and his remarks about them have a strong flavor of sour grapes. Most likely he would have preferred seeing a woman at all times with a scrub brush in one hand and a mop in the other, to seeing her have her work finished up in due season and leisure time for a good rest. I do not believe in women making martyrs of themselves, and working one's self to death is as surely a sin as any other method of suicide. Reason directs how much and how far our labors may extend; and conscience is a good master to serve if we obey its monitions and requirements.

FARMER'S WIFE.

Ladies' fancy slippers are now made of felt. A young man just out of his "teens," says it is an old fashion revived—that the slippers worn by his mother sixteen years ago were felt—pretty often.

The Flower Garden.

TWELVE GOOD SHRUBS.

Every lover of flowers wants at least a dozen shrubs in the garden, or rather in the "front yard."

I began to select my shrubs in the same way that I began to select flowers for the garden beds—by reading a catalogue, and marking those which seemed most desirable. When I had gone through the list I had four times as many marked as I could possibly use, so I cut down the number, retaining those which had the most attractive descriptions attached. These I sent for, and the result was, that, as I ordered kinds I had never seen and knew nothing about, half of them died the following winter. Some were too tender, others required different care from those I was acquainted with. I learned to select those kinds you know something about, unless you could feel sure, from the recommendations of some friend, that new varieties described were hardy and not too particular as regards treatment. Catalogues are gotten up for the express purpose of selling plants, and we cannot always feel sure that a plant called hardy will prove to be so in our northern states, or that a plant which is said to be easily managed can be successfully managed by the average amateur gardener. What it is easy for a professional gardener to do, is often quite beyond the skill of the amateur.

From that time to the present, I have kept on sending for shrubs, and those I now have are illustrative of the "survival-of-the-fittest" theory. From the number grown in my gardens, requiring only ordinary care, and all perfectly hardy, and all equally satisfactory, I will give a list of a dozen.

One of the very best is the old Lilac. It can be grown as a shrub, or as a small tree. It is so profuse in flowering, so fragrant and so beautiful, and has such a way of being cheerful and happy through all kinds of abuse that if I were to be asked to recommend one shrub for general use I think it would be this. I always cut away the flower-bunches, when they fade, and allow no seeds to form. In this way, I am sure of profuse bloom every season.

The Flowering Almond is another favorite. It needs to be laid upon the ground and held there by sods of earth, through the winter to blossom well the next season, but it will do finely without this treatment.

The Flowering Sumach is a fine shrub, and has a feathery grace no others lay claim to. Its worst fault is the same as the Lilac's it suckers so freely that it encroaches upon surrounding territory, but the use of the scythe, two or three times a month during the summer will remedy this.

Spirea Crenata is very beautiful, as is S. Prunifolia. A well grown clump of these shrubs is always admired when they are in blossom, and they require so little care that any one can grow them well.

Deitzia Crenata and D. Florepleno should never be overlooked. D. Gracilis is rather tender in our long winters, when not protected by a covering of pine boughs, but the other two will hold their own bravely.

Honeysuckles, though not properly shrubs, can be grown as such, by cutting them in well, for the first year or two, and they are remarkably beautiful for single specimens in the ground, and as they have the merit of blossoming more or less all summer, I would advise every one to try one.

Forsythias are very neat plants, and their yellow bells give a cheer and brilliancy to the other shrubs which is not brought out fully without a touch of yellow. If you have never noticed this fact, when you make bouquets, next summer, add one yellow flower, and see how it brightens and glorifies the whole mass of bloom. It has the effect of sunshine. But a very little of this color is enough, and more than a little, spoils it all.

Daphne Creconum is a low-growing, evergreen shrub, flowering at intervals throughout the summer. Its flowers are bright pink, borne in clusters, and are very fragrant. It is not generally cultivated, but well deserves to be. It forms a dense, spreading clump, and should be set in some position where it can be seen from the house or path.

Pyrus Japonica has scarlet flowers, is very early, and extremely hardy.

The Snow-Ball is to well known to require anything more than mention here. It deserves a place in every garden.

The Wigelia is also well know, and no collection should be without it.

The twelfth plant should be a wild one, the old white Elder, if I were making the selection for myself. I have one that I pulled up by an old pasture fence, and when it is covered with its delicate white flower in June, nothing in the whole garden is finer, or receives more admiration. I would not exchange it for a dozen of the new shrubs from Japan. Nor would others, if they had to buy it at a good round price as a foreign novelty. Give it a trial, and you will not give it up.—*Cor. Farmer's Journal.*

A MINISTER AFRAID OF THE DEVIL was the novel scene presented in a church at Gartmore, England, on a recent Sunday. The minister, who is in the habit of warning his congregation on special occasions against the machinations of the evil one, was delivering a discourse on his favorite theme, when suddenly a large window blind and roller behind the pulpit lost its hold, falling right over the preacher and completely concealing him for a time from his flock. In its descent the roller smashed a number of window panes, and the clatter of the falling glass added panic to the already terrified condition of the enshrouded preacher. Ignorant of the cause of the sudden darkness and horrible noise, he thought he might have exceeded the bounds of discretion in his denunciations of the devil, who had there-upon arrived hastily in person bent on retaliation. A frightful shriek of "I am gone!" echoed through the church, and the maddened preacher with one bound cleared the pulpit, not even stopped until he reached the extreme coner of the edifice. It may be well imagined that the suddenness of this alarming incident and its dramatic nature exercised a most powerful effect on the nerves of all who witnessed it. Fortunately there was no general panic or the consequences might have been serious; but the story should be a lesson to those ministers who touch upon the delicate question of the personality of the devil to retain their self-possession under any circumstances, and not to leave the pulpit unless absolutely ejected from it by force.

A HORRIBLE DEATH.—An intemperate man named Harley recently met with a terrible death in a liquor saloon in San Francisco. He had just recovered from a second attack of delirium tremens, but started that morning on another drunken spree. About 11 o'clock in the forenoon he staggered into a saloon nearly insensible, and feebly asked for a drink. This was refused him, and he staggered toward the gas-jet to light the stump of a cigar he carried, while the barkeeper turned away to attend to his duties. A moment afterward he heard a low moan and noticed a flash of fire, and turning around he saw Harley falling to the floor, his head enveloped in black, thick smoke, while flames issued from his mouth and ears. A horrible smell of burned flesh filled the air. Not a moment was lost in attending to the sufferer. He was beyond relief, however. His face was perfectly black, partly charred and and partly covered with soot. His eyes were open. His mouth was completely roasted on the inside, but, with the exception of his head and hands, no part of his body bore marks of his horrible death.

These are the times when the Alpha and Omega of a man's salary clasp hands without half trying.

It is very common, though not a very economical practise to lock the barn after the horse has been stolen. In various ways a multitude of farmers follow out the spirit of this old proverb. Indeed, so universal is the habit, we must all plead guilty of having, at some times in our lives, waited too long before taking those preventive measures which we know were absolutely required. Just now one of the principle directions in which care is needed in this respect is in regard to the pasture fences. It is now time to turn the cattle out to grass and we are all in a hurry to get them into the pastures and be about the other work which is rapidly coming on. Around many pastures the fences are poor and repairs are absolutely required, but in the great hurry of spring work there is a strong temptation to let the fences remain as they are until a more "convenient season." We can turn in the cattle and cherish the hope, but not the expectation, that they will keep quiet during the season, or, at least, until we can attend to the fence. Experience teaches that should such hopes are doomed to disappointment. The fence that is neglected when the cattle are turned into the pasture will be neglected until they get out. Then perhaps right in the midst of haying when the work is far more pressing than it is now—time must be taken to make the repairs which ought to be done in the spring. It has been found that when, by reason of getting out of their enclosures, cattle become discontented and form the habit of roaming at large, it is much more difficult and requires a much stronger fence to compel them to remain where they belong than it needed if it is made before they get out of the pasture. A good fence made in the spring is worth far more for keeping cattle in a pasture than an extra fence which is not put up until they have got into the habit of going when and where they please. We all know that it is a deal better to lock the barn before the horse is stolen than it is to wait until he is irretrievably lost. Let us realize that it is just as much better to put up our pasture fences before our cattle get out than it is to wait until they have become discontented and and determined not to stay at home.

Saturday a prudent, elderly woman was observed skirmishing around West Harrison street, evidently on housetaking thoughts intent. She called at one house, and when the bell was answered by a woman with her hair done up in a wispy queue behind and flour all over her arms, said affably: "Good morning. Are you going to stay in this house this year?" "Couldn't you see there was no 'To Let' upon it? Of course we are; we own it," replied the woman very shortly. "O, I didn't want to take it," blandly answered her visitor; "I have as good as taken the house next door. Do you burn wood, or hard or soft coal? And do you make your bread or buy it? And what sort of sugar do you use? and how many dishes and spoons have you got?" "Ah—why, are you mad?" gasped the woman of the house. "O, nothing," composedly remarked her curious visitor, "only I always like to know what sort of neighbors I am likely to have, what things they will be likely to borrow, and so on, because it makes quite an item in the course of the year. The last place I had over on Adams street, they all used granulated sugar, and the difference of living there, compared with what it had been on May street, where they mostly used coffee sugar was very considerable." By this time the resident had recovered her senses, and jumped for a broomstick, shrieking, "Take your dollar-store jewelry and your made-over cheap silk dress off of my door-step or I'll fit you for a new set of six-dollar teeth, and a false front uglier than the one you've got on," and her visitor departed, remarking placidly: "The poor creature seems unfriendly. She must take a good deal of trouble with this front garden—I think I shall keep hens."

THE PUBLIC LANDS.—Maj. Powell, the explorer of the plains, in a recent article on the public lands before the American academy of sciences says that the proportion of public lands left suitable for settlement is very small. "There is not left unsold in the whole United States, of land which a poor man could turn into a farm, enough to make one average county in Wisconsin." Possibly there is some land in Texas and the Indian territory, which could not be brought within this limit, but none elsewhere. The great grazing areas on the plains of course cannot be taken up and utilized in quarter sections of 160 acres. The public lands are humid or arid, reckoning as humid all those which will support agriculture without irrigation. Most of the humid lands are now confined to the swamps of Florida and other southern states, and Minnesota alone has any arable lands which could be taken up under the homestead law. Of the 1,500,000 acres of arid land, about 3 per cent is irrigable, Maj Powell does not include in this statement the millions of acres of the lands of railroads, which are offered to settlers on terms nearly as favorable as those of the government, nor does he discuss the effect of railroads and small settlements in changing the climate and converting arid wastes into regions of rain-fall. There are large sections of the country which can never be very thickly peopled. Prof. Morgan in a subsequent discussion thought the Indians and the buffalo should be permitted to live together in the grazing regions, and Prof. Henry said that he had long regarded the system of public land distribution as wrong, based as it was on a uniformity of character in the soil which did not exist.—*Springfield Republican.*

THE POISONED MIND.—It is not acts that blacken the soul; it is not conduct which destroys. These are but the holes which the worms, bred in the very fiber of the wood, have eaten. These are but the fruit and visible witness of a disease which holds the entire body in its power, making the veins its channels, every drop of blood its servant, every pulsation of the heart its slave. The thoughts destroy. The imagination puts the marring touch upon the whiteness of young souls. You cannot reform a drunkard until you first reform his mind. What needs to be done is to have the craving for stimulants taken out of him. Over against his inordinate desire you must raise up some stronger repulsion which shall be more than a match for his appetite for liquor. This is the true philosophy in every branch of morals. You must change the man himself if you must change his habits. There is no life so hard as a religious life to a man without religion. —*Golden Rule.*

BOTH WORK AND WORSHIP.—It is a great mistake to suppose that God has nothing in this world for his children to approach except an altar. Has God no service for you to render except worship? Is he infinite only in self-love? In the whole history of man God has seemed to demand only the morning and evening prayer. Of the seven days he asked only one for himself. The mighty ones whom he has marked with his love have knelt at the altar only at times between the great day that has passed and the day that is coming. Thus history, in the midst of which God's will appears, tells us that the same Deity who has built an altar has made also a world, and that the highest form of manhood will never be the monk or the infidel, but the soul which sees at once the altar of God and the universe of God.—*David Swing.*

An exchange remarks: "The only jokes women like to read are those which reflect ridicule on men." "Yes," adds another exchange, "on taking up a paper a woman invariably turns to the marriage column."

CATARRH.

TWELVE YEARS
Of Suffering.

Gentlemen:—About twelve years ago, while traveling with Father Kemp's Old Folks Concert Troupe as a tenor singer, I took a severe cold and was laid up at Newark, N. J. This cold brought on a severe attack of Catarrh, which I battled with every known remedy for four weeks without avail, and was finally obliged to give up a most desirable position and return home unable to sing a note. For three years afterwards I was unable to sing at all. The first attack of Catarrh had left my nasal organs and throat so sensitive that the slightest cold would bring on a fresh attack, leaving me prostrated. In this way I continued to suffer. The last attack, the severest I ever had was terrible. I suffered the most excruciating pain in my head, was so hoarse as to be scarcely able to speak, and coughed incessantly. I thought I was going into quick consumption, and I firmly believe that had these symptoms continued without relief they would have rendered me an easy victim. When in this distressing condition, I commenced the use of *Sanford's Radical Cure for Catarrh*, very reluctantly, I confess, as I had tried all the advertised remedies without benefit. The first dose of this wonderful medicine gave me the greatest relief. It is hardly possible for one whose head ashes as ashes, who can scarcely articulate distinctly on account of the choking accumulations in his throat, to realize how much relief I obtained from the first application of *Sanford's Radical Cure for Catarrh*. Under its influence, both internal and external, I rapidly recovered, and by and by an occasional use of the remedy since have been entirely free from Catarrh, for the first time in twelve years.

Respectfully yours,
GEO. W. HOLBROOK.

Waltham, Mass., Jan 8, 1876.
P. S.—I purchased the *Radical Cure* of GEORGE H. ROGERS, Druggist, Rumford Building.

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Respectfully yours,
MRS. RICHARD GORHAM.

Lynchburg, Va., July 22, 1876.
P. S.—Since I finished my letter some of my neighbors have come in and wish me to send for some more of your Plasters. I am recommending them to all my friends. Please send me six of your *Collins' Voltaic Plasters*. Enclosed find $1.25. MRS. GORHAM.

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In a few hours, not by drying it up, but by removing it from the system. TRY IT.

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CURES COUGHS.
CURES CATARRH.
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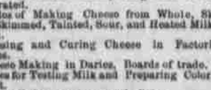

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