THE OLD MEETING-HOUSE.

It stood there on the sloping green,
Near the margin of the wood,—
The narrow graveyard lay between,
Where the gray stones silent stood;
Beneath them slept the true and kind,—
And—ah, how near and dear!
Nay, none 'neath those green mounds confined
Were buried without a tear.

The old house walls were warped and seamed,
And the roof was frayed and worn.—
The low door where the sunlight streamed
In the summer Sabbath morn,
Bore impress of the ceaseless tread,—
Through the unremembered years,—
Of passing pilgrims, long since dead,
And gone from a vale of tears.

In fancy—lo, the pulpit plain,—
The benches of yellow pine;
And hark the simple, sweet refrain
Of music that seemed divine;
Songs more melodious to my ear
Than strains of cathedral grand;
E'en now their echo I seem to hear,
Float back from the heav'nly land,

My father's voice there read the Word,
There my mother sat so meek—
Her fair face told her heart was stirred,
And her God not far to seek;
Oh, bless that mother, sweet and mild,
Her days have been lengthened long;
She'll not forget her weary child
When she joins the angel throng.

That chapel old—ah, nevermore
Will it sound with praise and prayer;
Those scenes are now forever o'er—
It standeth no longer there;
And they who sought, in years agone,
Those benches of yellow pine,
Have bid farewell and journeyed on,
To the longed-for home divine.

—*F. A. Simkins, in Boston Courier.*

M. SASSON'S VALET.

In 1865 M. Paul Sasson resided on the Boulevard de Neuilly, Paris. He was a speculator and financier and about 50 years of age. He was married and had a daughter Corinne and a son Charles. He kept up an expensive establishment and was reputed rich. Early in the year named he became reserved and morose and was constantly talking to his family about their extravagance and the necessity of reducing expenses. At length he grew almost violent in his conduct toward his family and the greatest forbearance had to be exercised by them.

Oct 21 M. Sasson went to the city early. About noon he returned with a van, and set several men to work removing the pictures from the parlors. He was very stern, and took no notice of his family, who did not expostulate. He returned to the city, and was not home until late. The next morning at breakfast he informed his family that he was about to curtail his establishment, and to that end had resolved to move into a smaller and less pretentious dwelling.

"Have you suffered such heavy losses as to render this necessary?" his wife asked. "It is very inopportune just at this juncture, when Corinne expects soon to receive a proposal of marriage."

"Let her marry whom she pleases," he replied, roughly; "she will soon bring him to poverty with her extravagance."

"She is sought by a worthy gentleman," the son said, "and the connection is in every way desirable."

"It is proper for you not to interfere in such matters," the father said; "you will have enough to do to attend to your own cards in life. You have already failed in two examinations at college, and have shown yourself incompetent for anything."

"I am competent," the son replied, with warmth, "to protect my mother and sister."

"Insolent!" exclaimed his father; and, rushing towaid him, he clenched his fist as though to strike him.

Mme. Sasson interposed her person between the irate man and his son. M. Sasson ground his teeth with rage, and then struck his wife a violent blow over the side of the head. The son was ready to grapple with his father, but his mother entreated him to forbear. Soon afteward M. Sasson quitted the house.

After a brief consultation Mme. Sasson resolved to seek refuge with her sister, and her children agreed to accompany her. Trunks were hastily packed and preparations made for immediate departure. While her children were engaged in this work Mme. Sasson went to a bureau where her husband kept a revolver.

"If he should return and see us preparing for departure he might do something desperate," she said to herself.

She took the pistol from the drawer; and holding it among the folds of her dress went to her apartments. As she quitted the library she found M. Sasson's valet at the door. He turned aside and made no remark, and she passed on in silence. On reaching the apartments occupied by herself and her husband, she found her children busy packing. She placed the revolver behind a vase on the mantelpiece without being observed.

When M. Sasson returned home in the evening he found his house deserted. The valet told him that his wife and children had departed together, having first packed several trunks, which they had taken with them.

"I saw madame go to your bureau in the library," the valet said at the conclusion of his story.

M. Sasson went to the library and examined the bureau.

"My revolver has been removed," he said.

"I saw madame quit the library," the valet said, "holding by her side something which was concealed by the drapery."

In the evening Mme. Sasson discovered that she had left a large sum of money in her boudoir. She had immediate need of this sum, and how to get it was the subject of much thought. She determined to say nothing of it to her children for fear Charles should insist upon going to their former residence for it, and thus perhaps be brought into collision with his father. Finally she devised a scheme. She had the keys of the side entrance to the garden and of a private entrance from the garden to the house. She thought that in the darkness she could easily find admission to the dwelling-house, reach unperceived the boudoir, procure the money, and return without any one's being the wiser for her adventure. To get her children out of the way she suggested that they should visit her brother, who resided a mile away, and communicate to him the step she had taken. As soon as they were gone she quitted her sister's house unknown to any one but her maid, whom she had taken with her, and, procuring a cab, went to within a hundred yards of her former residence in the Boulevard de Neuilly. Directing the driver to wait for her return she went toward the dwelling, opening the gate into the garden with caution; she left it ajar and crossed the lawn to a side door. This she also left ajar, being afraid that the closing of it might arouse the inmates. Without difficulty or molestation she ascended the stairs and succeeded in getting possession of the money. She quitted the house, still leaving the side door ajar, but on passing out of the garden she closed the gate and hastily walked toward the cab. She reached her sister's house before her children returned and without her absence having been noticed.

The next morning M. Sasson failed to call for his valet as usual. After waiting for some time, according to the valet's statement, he went to his master's apartment and found him lying in bed with a bullet hole in his head. On the coverlet lay his revolver. His watch and purse were missing. His wardrobe had been ransacked and his escritoire broken open. There was no doubt that the assassin had been at work.

The Judge of Instruction and his officers investigated the case and arrived at the conclusion that murder and robbery had been done.

The valet told what he knew about the family troubles and the fact of Mme. Sasson and her children having left their home the previous day on account of what had passed between monsieur and his wife and son. Then the valet related the incident of the revolver.

But how had any one entered the house? Jean Chauban, the valet, testified that early in the morning, as he was taking the milk at the garden floor, he observed that the side door of the house was ajar, and going in that way closed it after him. The garden was high, but an expert climber could easily scale it on either side.

The gendarmes on duty near by testified that between 10 and 11 o'clock the previous night he saw a cab standing within a few hundred feet of the house. He spoke with the driver, who said:

"A very comely woman has just disappeared by the side of that house."

The cabman was easily found by the police. Did he know the lady? No. Where did he take her up? On the corner of the Rue de Morny and the Faubourg St. Honore. Mme. Sasson's sister resided on the Rue de Morny near the Rue de Pontheu. It was a very painful conclusion to reach, but there was no avoiding it—Mme. Sasson had assassinated her husband and the missing articles were taken merely to turn aside suspicion. She had lived unhappily with him; he had determined to reduce his establishment; he had struck her! All these facts were testified to by domestics. Then came the episode of the pistol, narrated by the valet, and the further fact, admitted by Mme. Sasson's maid when she was cleverly captured on the street and removed to the office of the Judge of Instruction, that Mme. Sasson had a key to the garden and the side door of the house, and that she had been absent from her sister's house for two hours between 9:30 and 11:30 the night of October 22.

Everything being thus clear, Mme. Sasson was arrested and charged with the crime of murder. Mme. Sasson denied the accusation and told the story as the reader has it before him, omitting the episode of the pistol.

"Do you remember going to the bureau in the library before you left the house October 22?" the Judge of Instruction asked her.

"Yes, I do."

"You took a revolver out of the bureau, and you haven't mentioned the fact."

"I did; but I refrained from saying anything about it because I did not wish to have to say that I was afraid my husband might shoot one or the other of us."

"What did you do with the pistol?"

"I put it behind a vase on the mantelpiece in my husband's apartment, intending to remove it, but I forgot it."

In consultation afterward the Judge said to Goupe, a detective:

"This woman does not talk nor look like a guilty person. If she is not guilty—and, mark you, she has just the sum of money she says she went for to her boudoir, and the missing watch has not been found near her or about her—if she is not the assassin, how came the murderer to find the pistol hidden behind the vase? You have seen the vase, and know just how and where she laid it. Is it possible that any one whom Mme. Sasson left behind her did the deed?"

This suggestion put the detective on a line of inquiry, and he pursued it with vigor, but found no clew. Mme. Sasson was convicted of the killing of her husband and sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment.

Jean Chauban, the former valet of M. Sasson, assumed the name of Roumaine and opened a wineshop in the Rue Greuse, near the Bois de Boulogne. Six months after Mme. Sasson's conviction, in the spring of 1866, Detective Goupe was looking for a wandering swindler who had cheated several charitable ladies in the suburbs of the city. In his wanderings Goupe dropped into the wineshop of Jean Roumaine, and was soon on friendly terms with that gentleman; for he immediately identified him, elaborately transformed as he was, as M. Sasson's former valet, whom he had watched for a month, in various disguises, to see whether he could connect him with the crime of October 22d.

M. Roumaine had a splendid gold chain on his vest, and Goupe asked him the time. He pulled out the elegant repeater, which Goupe had no hesitation in saying exactly answered the description of the watch stolen from M. Sasson when he was murdered.

"A fine watch," said the officer.

"Yes—a present from a dead friend," answered Roumaine.

"Ah, very precious, no doubt," said the officer.

"A sad remembrance," was the reply, with an assumed look of sorrow.

"I once knew a gentleman who had a watch just like that," said the detective, "and, strange to say, he is dead also."

"A coincidence," said the valet. "Won't monsieur drink?"

"Thanks," was the reply. "It is a strange coincidence, and, would you believe it, my friend was murdered. Why, monsieur, what is the matter with you? Was your friend murdered also?"

"No, no, not that, monsieur," was the answer; "but your words startled me. Murder, you see, is such a dreadful thing, and one never knows, in this great city, who he has near him."

"That is very true," said the officer, "my poor friend, for instance, didn't know. Listen, it is very strange. The jury said that my friend was murdered by his wife—think of that; but I say he was murdered by his valet."

Roumaine, pale as a ghost, was staring with alarmed gaze right at the officer and clinging with both hands to the counter.

"Let us drink," said the officer, apparently not noticing the state in which Roumaine was. Goupe filled his glass with brandy and Roumaine did the same.

"You feel strong and refreshed?" asked the officer. "Just so; now, if you please, you will put on your coat and come along with me, Jean Chauban, for you're wanted for the murder of M. Sasson."

As Goupe covered the man with his revolver at the moment he uttered these words there was no help for him. Quietly and without any show of resistance, Roumaine went with the officer. The watch in his possession, the money which he had invested in the wineshop were evidence against him, and at length he broke down and confessed his guilt.

"I saw madame quitting her boudoir on the night of October 22 and followed her to the garden. I saw her leave the door ajar and go out by the garden. It at once struck me that here was a good chance to rob my master and lay it to his wife. After she and the children had quitted the house I searched for the pistol and found it behind the vase. After I was sure that monsieur was fast asleep I got the revolver and went to his room. He had drank heavily before retiring, but to my surprise he awoke as I was rummaging the wardrobe. He cried: 'Thieves!' and was about to get out of bed, when I fired and he fell back dead. Then I gathered all the plunder I could and hid it away. I did not volunteer too much information during the investigation, because I thought the evidence would convict Mme. Sasson without much say on my part."

It is needless to say that Mme. Sasson was released and Jean Chauban sent to the gallows.

Rules for Building.

The *Country Gentleman* gixes the following rules by way of suggestion for country residents, farmers and others who intend to erect dwellings in the spring:

Choose a good spot for the house—healthy, dry, with good drainage—and if possible, with a good prospect, landscape and trees. Surface water should run off in every direction.

Secure provision for pure water, if not by wells and springs, then with filtered rain water. Many lose their lives by using impure water.

Place the house where it will be most accessible from all parts of the farm, as nearly as may be, for the convenience of the owner and his men in their constant labors.

Beginning at the basement or cellar, let it be well lighted, with double glazed windows, and always kept dry and clean, so as never to need cleaning.

Let the cellar extend under the whole house, for preserving the timbers from rotting, and affording the room.

For country houses wood is usually best and cheapest. Stone walls are cold and damp, unless well furred, lathed and plastered. All brick walls should have air spaces. In building with wood, adopt balloon frames with air spaces between outside and interior plastering, with the additional security of using building paper or brick inside, and use plenty of nails, as they are the cheapest strengtheners.

If the cellar has not perfect natural drainage, lay a tile outside all around the wall, a foot and a half below the wall, with free discharge: and cross drains into it to keep the cellar free from dampness.

Few spacious windows are better than many contracted ones.

Avoid hanging doors to swing outside on stair-landings, and never place them so as to strike each other when opened.

Bedrooms should be large enough to avoid placing the bed against a window or closet door.

Plenty of closets should be provided, and hang the closet door so that the closet may receive light from the nearest window.

Adjoining the kitchen, dining or living room, should be a small room accessible from outside, for workingmen to leave muddy boots and overcoats, and to wash their hands.

In the country, avoid basement kitchens, and place kitchen, living room and common bedrooms all on one floor, for ready access.

To deaden the floor between the cellar and room above, nail flooring on the lower sides of the joists, place on this two or three inches of concrete and then lay the floor. This will exclude sounds, prevent rising exhalations from fruit room or cellar, and prove additional security against fire.

Kitchen windows, being in constant use, should be hung on weights; and they should always be on opposite sides, to give full light and free ventilation.

A square or rectangular house gives the most room for the same amount of outside walls; but some exception must be made in order to obtain light and side ventilation.

Avoid receding angles in roofs as much as possible, as they are a frequent cause of leakage.

Easily accessible verandas may be made with high ceilings, to prevent darkening windows.

A high ceiling to rooms poorly ventilated is not so good as one of moderate height, but well ventilated.

About the Crescent.

Nothing positive can be traced as to when the crescent became the Turkish symbol, but there are several legends which give the reason for its adoption. One of these says that Philip, the father of Alexander, meeting with great difficulties in the seige of Byzantium, set the workmen to undermine the walls, but a crescent moon discovered the design, which miscarried; consequently the Byzantines erected a statue to Diana, and the crescent moon became the symbol of the State. Another legend is that Othman, the Sultan, saw in a vision a crescent moon, which kept increasing till its horns extended from East to West, and he adopted the crescent of his dream for his standard.

Sounds and Echoes.

As the ear cannot distinguish between two sounds occurring at an interval of less than one-sixteenth of a second, that time must necessarily elapse between the utterance of a sound and its return to form an echo. An echo is simply a sound reflected from some opposing body, which must be thirty-five feet away from the cause of the sound. The sound will have to pass through seventy feet, and this will take about one-sixteenth of a second—since sound travels at the rate of 1,100 feet per second—so that the direct and reflected sounds may be distinct. The further the reflecting body is away the longer of course will the sound take to reach the ear after reflection.

Resolution.

Resolution is the mother of security. A good resolution will make any port. Let not the sword of resolution be blunted. When a resolution is once formed, half the difficulty is over. A heroic resolution never permits life to pass away in trifles. A statue stands firm on its base; a virtuous man on firm resolutions. Fortune, though a frowning fortress, smiles at those whose resolution forces open her gates. Resolutions taken without thought bring disaster without remedy. A good resolution is the most fortifying armor a good man can wear. Resolution is necessary to guard us against dejection. A quick, courageous resolution is better than a gradual deliberation. Sudden resolutions like the sudden rise of the mercury in the barometer, indicate little else than the changeableness of the weather.

AGRICULTURAL.

TOPICS OF INTEREST RELATIVE TO FARM AND GARDEN.

How to Judge Sheep.

Purity of blood is invaluable, especially in the male sheep, as he is chiefly to be relied on when crossing or improving the breed is desired. The English downs are considered the best for producing first-class mutton, while the merinos are remembered for producing the finest wool. The principal points sought for in sheep are those that give evidence of their fattening properties, a straight back, broad loins, roundness of body are valuable points. A good formed animal is one with plenty of flesh, evenly put on, and as little bone as possible. The following gives requirements for mutton sheep: Head moderately fine; nostrils wide; eyes prominent; ears broad, moderately long, thin and covered with short hair; collar full from breast and shoulders, tapering gradually all the way to where the neck and head join; neck short, thick and strong and free from coarse and loose skin; shoulders broad and full, and at the same time joined so gradually to the collar forward and the chine backward as not to leave the least hollow in either place; fore legs, the mutton on the arm or fore, thigh should come quite to the knee; leg with heavy bone and upright, clear from superfluous skin, should stand square and well apart; breast, broad and well forward, keeping the legs wide apart; girth or chest, full and deep; fore flank quite full, not showing hollow behind shoulder; back and loin, broad, flat and straight, from which the ribs must spring with a fine circular arch. Belly, straight on under line; quarters, long and full, with mutton quite down to the hock; hock should stand neither in nor out, but straight; twist or junction inside the thighs, deep, wide and full, with a broad breast, will keep the legs open and upright; the whole body should be covered with wool, of a close texture, of good length and fine quality.—*Practical Farmer.*

Preventing Swine Plague.

Dr. Detmers of the Ohio University, a gentleman well known from his investigations with the microscope, and especially in swine fever, in a late address upon this subject, held, and correctly, that once hogs are attacked but little can be done to save them. Only at the beginning, or before extensive morbid changes are produced, is it feasible to treat them. If the infection has taken place through the digestive canal it may be worth while to try an emetic of powdered white hellebore. From two to fifteen grains, according to the age and size of the hog, would be about the dose. It may be given in a boiled potato, or on the surface of a little milk. If neither the one nor the other is voluntarily taken, the hog is far gone and may be given up as a bad case. If one dose should not cause the animal to vomit, in say twenty minutes, another one may be given in about half an hour. This treatment may be followed by a few doses of calomel, also to be given with a boiled potato. Of other medicines tried, he says:

"I have had the best success with carbolic acid, and have obtained good results—that is, a prevention of a plain outbreak of the disease—by giving once a day from eight to ten drops of a 95 per cent. solution of carbolic acid for every 100 pounds of live weight in the water for drinking. Iodine in a watery solution—ten grains of iodine and twelve grains of iodide of potassium to one ounce of water—and that given in small doses, has also proved to be very effective, but the damage done to the pig by this iodine treatment becomes very soon apparent. Hypophosphate of soda has also been tried, and has given favorable results. It may be given in doses sufficiently large to loosen the bowels, and be dissolved in the water for drinking.

"The most obvious physiological effect of carbolic acid upon a hog is a reduction of the temperature. Whether it is this or some other property that retards or interferes with the propagation of the swine-plague germs I am not prepared to decide, and to discuss theories would lead too far and be of little use. It may therefore suffice to state that the results of such a treatment have, on the whole, been favorable. If, however, the organism is already pervaded by the disease-germs, or if important morbid changes are existing, nothing whatever can be expected of the carbolic acid treatment, because the propagation has already taken place, and the acid, most assuredly, cannot repair the existing morbid changes. Neither can any other medicine. For disinfecting purposes we have, however, cheaper substances than carbolic acid; for instance, chloride of lime and a one per mille solution of corrosive sublimate."

Dr. Salmon, Chief of the Animal Bureau of the United States, says that for disinfecting, corrosive sublimate, one to 75,000 parts, will kill the bacteria of swine-plague. The solution not used for drinking should be freely sprinkled over the lot, yard, or pens in which the swine are kept. Sulphuric acid, one to 2,000 parts, is also recommended.

Farm and Garden Notes.

For cows, one of the best supplementary feeds with corn fodder, is wheat bran.

It takes six cords of hard maple wood to produce the same amount of heat that four cords of hickory will.

An Indiana farmer, after experiment, says the Cotswold is the most profitable sheep to keep for mutton and wool.

Some dairymen save the last fourth of the milk from the cow in a separate vessel, and pour it directly into a cream jar.

Avoid top ventilation in the poultry house. It will cause croup, swelled head, closed eyes and other difficulties.

The standard for a good cow is said to be 500 gallons of milk a year, and of this there should be ten per cent. of cream.

An authority says slight elevations are safer places for the grape than bottom lands, on account of the early and late frosts.

Plant trees for wind breaks if you live in thinly-wooded districts. They will serve as useful protectors of crops and stock.

With proper care and skill a well selected flock of the right kind of sheep can be made to pay 100 per cent on their cost every year.

A contemporary suggests that a cow can be easily led by a halter that commands her nose, but with difficulty by a rope around her horns.

Mr. F. H. Israel says the last colony of bees should have at least thirty pounds of sealed honey to start in with, the packs in double-walled chaff hives.

Coal ashes are of no value as manure. On very heavy soil, however, they are valuable as a divider of the clods, acting in the same manner as sharp sand.

It is useless to hope to destroy the acidity of certain soils by the application of lime and other supposed correctives; only drainage will accomplish it.

When fruit trees are sprayed with arsenical solutions, to operate against the coddling moth, curculio, etc., do it early enough in the season to avoid poisoning the fruit.

When a horse is taken into the stable, tired, muddy and sweaty, he ought to stand to hay at first, be gently bathed in warm water and then rubbed with cloths till thoroughly dry.

A good agency for keeping the air of the cellar sweet and wholesome is whitewash made of good white lime and water only. Lime in whitewash greatly promotes the complete oxidation of effluvia in the cellar air.

After frost has pinched the grasses they are no longer sufficient for cattle that must be kept in good flesh, not for cows giving milk. Add enough grain, and the grass will serve much better to maintain good condition.

In preparing food for stock, such as cooked vegetables, chopped feed, etc., always season with salt. Every animal craves, and must have, a certain amount of saline matter introduced into its system to enable it to thrive.

Green food, well-seasoned meat, plenty of water, dry dust, broken bones, gravel and egg shells, crushed up fine, meal wet with warm dish water in the morning, sour milk, etc, are good for causing hens to lay in winter time.

No kind of farm stock cost so little or pays so large a proportionate profit as sow pigs kept until they have their first litter of pigs. A sow due to farrow in March or April is always salable at a handsome advance on her value for making pork.

Guernsey grades are yearly growing more popular among dairymen and farmers, and their merits make them worthy of attention. There are but few essential differences among the Guernseys, Jerseys and Alderneys—they all come from the same group of islands.

In no other country in the world are the feathers of the barnyard fowls so recklessly wasted as our own. In France no part of the fowl is wasted, unless, perhaps, it be the intestines. The feet and heads are used at the chenper restaurants to give body to their soups, etc.

It is advised, says the *Cincinnati Commercial*, not to allow peach trees to bear fruit until after the third year. We think it better to allow them to bear whenever they can, and to plant young trees every spring to take the places of those killed by frost, accidents or carelessness.

Seed corn intended for next season should be thoroughly dried or it will not answer. If perfectly dry it will endure very severe cold, but if containing much water in its composition the extremely cold weather will injure the germ. Dry it well, and hang it up in a dry place of even temperature.

A new luxury in the vegetable line is now on the market. It is called the Spanish odorless onion; is imported from Spain; varies in size from six to twelve inches, and in looks closely resembles the ordinary onion. They are sweet, and can be eaten as apples at any times with little fear of an offensive breath.

By plowing under a crop when it is full of sap and water it very rapidly decays and enriches the soil, while if it is not plowed until the plant has become matured it will have a tendency to cure and turn into straw, and it will consequently take it a long while to sufficiently decay to become a fertilizer and be in a condition to be taken up by the soil.

Old turkeys and old geese are deemed worth much more as breeders on the farm than young ones. We once saw a goose which had successfully led forth a large hatching of young from the same hollow sycamore for over thirty years. She had "the hang of the barn." Ducks are good till three years old; a turkey is in her prime at five, and a goose at twenty.

To make superior hams and bacon, says Colman's Rural, corn should be mixed with oats or barley, or perhaps rye might answer, at the rate of one-half to a third of one of the latter to the former, and ground thus together. Such feed increases the proportion of tender, juicy lean streaking the fat, which is essential to produce a fine quality of hams and bacon.

The old-fashioned, sweet-scented pot evergreen, known as daphne indica, is still everywhere popular, though as a general thing it is kept too warm. A temperature of from forty-five to fifty-five degrees is enough for it. It is an admirable room plant or for cool conservatories. They are natives of China and require about the same temperature as a camellia.

In filling a box with ordinary house plants, it is better to have the plants in pots, for then the box is perfect at commencement, and will be more likely to remain so. By being plunged in earth they are not liable to suffer from drought, and will not grow so fast as to "draw up" and become unsightly. The plants being root-bound will be far more prolific with bloom.

A window box can be filled with plants that will thrive without sunshine, and afford a vast amount of pleasure. If palms cannot be employed, small evergreens, such as dwarf arbor vitæ, can be employed to good advantage. Ferns can be used with these, and form a beautiful combination. If a climber is desirable, the English ivy will fill the place. For the sunny window there are many other plants than those we have mentioned, which can be used to good advantage. Let the box be filled with Tom Thumb nasturtiums, with a tall growth at each end to run up the window cases, and a beautiful effect will be produced.

A Million in Money.

When General Manteuffel, in 1866, levied a contribution of 25,000,000 florins ($10,000,000) on Frankfort on-the-Main, Baron Mayer Karl von Rothschild was indignant and demanded: "Does your Excellency realize the full meaning of the word million? Has your Excellency ever seen a million of money?" The General was nonplussed, as, indeed, he had never seen such a sum at once, and to get out of the pickle he altogether remitted the contribution. Frankfort thereafter always considered Rothschild "a bigger man" than Manteuffel. Before that General Vogel von Falkenstein made an assessment of 5,700,000 florins ($2,280,000) upon the city, and sent "two soldiers with a wheelbarrow" to fetch it. He was much surprised to learn that the sum of money weighed about fifty tons.—*Chicago Herald.*

The Water in the Body.

How much water does the human body contain? It has been calculated that three-quarters of the mass of the human body is made up entirely of water. A man weighing seven stone, or 154 pounds, has 111 pounds of water in his body, or about fourteen gallons. Water is the most universal solvent with which the chemist is acquainted, and food can only afford nourishment by being dissolved in it.

FACTS FOR THE CURIOUS.

Jenner made the first experiment of inoculating a child from a cowpox pustule in 1796.

California claims the largest squash of the season. It was raised at Lompoc, and weighs 251 pounds.

A resident of Savannah exhibits one hundred and twenty-four large sweet potatoes which were grown on a single vine. They completely fill a barrel.

The earth is supposed to lose time at the rate of half a second in a century. Therefore, if the earth ever ceases to revolve on its axis, it will be more than six thousand million years before it will stop.

Muschenbroeck found that a human hair fifty-seven times thicker than a silkworm's thread would support a weight of 2,269 grains, and a horse hair, seven times thicker than this, 7,970 grains.

Here is a marriage notice from a Quebec newspaper, which is a curiosity in its way: "D'Entremont—D'Entremont—At St. Peter's Church, West Pubnico, by the Rev. William M'Leod, Denis D'Entremont, the eleventh child of Dominique D'Entremont, to Sarah J. D'Entremont, also the eleventh child of Francois J. D'Entremont.

A New Haven infant over two months old weighed only two and one-half pounds. She was well formed and healthy, and of fine vocal equipment. Her height was thirteen inches, her wrist seven-eighths of an inch in circumference, the back of her head measured one inch across, and her foot was one and one-fourth inches long.

One of the most prevalent of medical superstitions in olden times was that which attributed healing virtues to rings made of certain metals and fabricated after certain fashion. It was a custom in England, as early as the time of the Plantagenets, for the King, on a particular holiday every year, to bless camp rings at the church at Westminster, which rings were preserved by the people with the greatest care, as specifics against the disorders from which they take their name.

A little girl was shot in the head recently at Brockwayville, Penn. The bullet actually penetrated the brain matter, and the brain oozed out the aperture. Doctors also probed to the depth of three inches in search for the ball. For a time paralysis followed the rupture of the brain, but gradually it wore away, and at last accounts the child was in perfectly normal condition except the unhealed opening. The mental functions seem to be in no way impaired, and no danger has resulted from inflammation. Such cases have been heard of before, but they are very rare.

According to the Belgian savant, Quetelet, a man attains his maximum weight about his fortieth year, and begins to lose it toward his sixtieth year. A woman, however, does not attain her maximum weight until her fiftieth year. The weight of persons of the same age in different classes of society also differs. In the affluent classes the average maximum weight is 172 pounds, and is attained at fifty years of age. In the artizan class it is 154 pounds, attained at forty. Among farm laborers it is 171 pounds, attained at sixty. In the general classes it is 164 pounds, and is reached between forty and fifty years of age.

Plate Glass.

Plate glass is only made in the very largest factories. The plate glass works at Ravenhead, England, are in a building 339x155 feet: the melting furnace is placed in the center of the building, with openings on two parallel sides for working purposes, while along two sides of the building are arranged the annealing ovens, which are often made very large to receive the immense plates that are made. The materials of which the best plate glass is made are pure silica or quartz sand, pure carbonate of soda, slaked lime, and plate glass cullet, that is, bits of broken plate glass. These materials, in proper proportions, are put in the melting-pot, where they are allowed to remain from ten to sixteen hours, or even longer, until the whole has become fused and the soda is thoroughly volatilized. Toward the last the temperature is allowed to fall, and the glass then acquires the viscidity suitable for casting. In some factories it is then transferred to another vessel, where it is allowed to stand at the same high temperature for some time before casting, but in many establishments it is poured directly from the melting-pot upon the casting-table. This table consists of a massive slab, usually of cast-iron, supported by a frame, and generally placed at the mouth of the annealing oven. On each side of the table are ribs or bars of metal, which keep the glass within proper limits, and by their height determine the thickness of the plate. A copper or bronze cylinder about a foot in diameter, lies across the table upon the side bars. The table is heated by having hot coals placed upon it, and is then carefully cleaned. The pots of melted glass are then lifted from the furnace, skimmed with a large copper knife, conveyed on wheel-racks to the table, and being swung up by means of a crane, are emptied thereon. The cylinder now rolled across the viscid mass spreads the glass out in a sheet of uniform breadth and thickness. While the plate is still red hot its end is turned up like a flange, and with a rake it is thrust into the annealing oven, which is heated to a dull red heat. Other plates are now immediately cast upon the hot table, until the annealing oven is filled, when it is closed and slowly cooled for five days. Taken from the oven, the plates are ground smooth with sand and water, and afterward with emery paper. They are then polished with powder of red oxide of iron, under considerable pressure. This work of grinding and polishing is done by machinery, by means of which a most brilliant surface is readily secured.—*Inter-Ocean.*

The Height of Europe.

According to a German Geographer the average height of Europe may be estimated at 974 feet. Switzerland shows the greatest mean height—viz.: 6,624 feet, and the Netherlands the least, or 31. Intermediate are Spain and Portugal, 2,298; Austria, 1,698; Italy, 1,698; France, 1,292; British Islands, 714; Germany, 701; Russia, 548; Denmark, 115—these figures being given, of course, approximately.

The Singer's Reward.

He sang of midnights gloomy,
Of gardens bright and bloomy,
Of stars and wars, of seas and shores:
He knew he was inspired.
He lived on heights Elysian;
Hope's fancies charmed his vision;
He won some fame, but no cash came—
This last fact made him tired.

To follow high ideals
When hunger on you steals
Is such a game that soon grows tame;
He did not thrive on hope,
But dropped his lofty singing,
And now grows rich by stringing
Together rhymes to suit the times
About a patent soap.

HORSES IN JAPAN.

LARGEST BREEDING FARM IN THE WORLD.

The Imperial Pasture of Simosa—A Remarkable Inclosure of Large Area Containing More Than 100,000 Horses.

There are large breeding establishments in many parts of the world, but it is doubtful if there is now, or ever was, a breeding establishment in any other country that could equal the great horse pasture of Simosa, in Japan. Nearly a thousand years ago the main island of the Japanese Empire was about equally divided between the conquering race and the aborigines. The conquerors held the southern half and the aborigines the northern half. One of the reigning Tycoons determined upon the conquest of the aborigines, and he sent a large and well equipped army across the Hakoni range into the aboriginal territory. After a long war, in which there were many bloody battles, the aborigines were defeated and driven north. The territory conquered comprises all the country around Tokio, the capital, and several provinces still north of that. Within the boundaries of this conquest were what are now called the "Plains of Simosa." These plains were found to be admirably adapted to grazing. They are about forty miles east of Tokio, between the head of the bay of Yeddo and the ocean, and are three hundred or four hundred feet above the sea level. They are in fact peninsula table lands. From these plains a considerable number of small streams have their source. The larger part of this surface is covered with grasses, indigenous to that country, among which are several kinds of clovers, bunch grasses and a fescue grass. At intervals there are groves of pines, oaks, beech and maple trees.

It was determined to establish there a pasture where the best cavalry horses could be bred and in such numbers that their whole cavalry could be supplied with fresh mounts at any time. Ordinary inclosures, and even subdivision fences, could have been built with little labor and cost, but ordinary fences would not have met the requirements. The Japanese population was then three hundred or four hundred miles south of that point. Two hundred miles north were the defeated but still unconquered aborigines, ready to pounce down upon their invaders whenever a favorable opportunity presented. Under these circumstances a fortified fence was demanded. To thus inclose a peninsula fifty miles by seventy miles was a gigantic work, but when an absolute authority, with millions of submissive people ready to obey that authority, determines to do a work the amount of labor involved does not stand in the way of its accomplishment. An imperial decree was issued, ordering each feudal Prince in the Empire to send a certain number of laborers to build the inclosure and to make permanent settlements there. All the lands bordering the streams, susceptible of irrigation, were allotted to the laborers for homes. From every province laborers, with their families, poured in, and in a short time 250 villages were built along the line of the proposed inclosure. Crops for the food of these workers were planted, and the work on the fortified fences began with impressive ceremonies, befitting the importance of this project.

The outer inclosure was a solid earth embankment, sixteen feet high. It was built to conform to the borders of the table lands, which on the bay and ocean sides were very irregular. These irregularities increased the length of the embankment, and, as the land along the streams allotted to the settlers could not be included in the pasture, this great embankment had to be run up one side of the stream nearly to its source and then back again down the other side. As there were many of these streams the amount of embankment was enormously increased. In a book published by the Government many years ago the length of this outer fortified fence or embankment is stated to be five hundred miles. From two years' residence on this table land, riding every day through various portions of this old horse pasture, I believe this statement is within the bounds of truth. After this outer embankment was finished it was sown with a grass called "Hea," which becomes more deeply rooted in the soil than any other known grass. In that case the roots ran through the whole of the masses of earth, and have thus held them together so firmly that the embankments have not perceptibly washed or weathered through all the centuries which have intervened since their construction. On the top of this embankment a row of trees was planted. This inclosure formed a very strong defense, and even if an enemy had stormed and taken it, it would have been impossible to get the horses out, except at the gates, which were still more strongly fortified, and a detachment of mounted troops was stationed at each one. At convenient points corrals were built, and these were made double strong. They were built by throwing up embankments twenty-five and even thirty feet high.

In case the aborigines had succeeded in getting inside the outer embankment, the horses were to have been run into these immense corrals and defended there. The aborigines never succeeded in getting into the pasture, and if they had the corrals would not have been needed, for in a few years these horses became so wild that the whole Sioux tribe of Indians could not have caught them. The work of building the outer embankment occupied many years, and the construction of the corrals many more. Then all this great plain or tableland was sub-divided into smaller pastures containing from 800 to 2,000 acres each. The subdivision embankments were made twelve feet high, and the authority above quoted places the total length of these 2,500 miles. This work was all done by manual labor, the earth being dug up by mattocks, put in rope sacks and then carried to the embankment on the backs of men. The best equine stock of the Empire was bought and brought to these pastures. Embassadors were sent to Corea Manchuria and China, and the blooded stallions were bought for the improvement of the native blood. By the natural increase in a century or two there was an immense number of horses in this imperial pasture. The official authority already quoted puts this number at more than one hundred thousand. The laborers used in the construction of the embankments settled permanently on the lands that were excluded from the inclosure, and the villages founded by them are still there. By these means the rulers not only had a thoroughly fortified pasture, but they occupied, settled and developed the country conquered from the enemy.—*San Francisco Chronicle.*

Dr. E. G. Janeway, of New York city, acting on the suggestion of a country practitioner, has given frozen milk to patients whose stomachs did not tolerate ice cream, and speaks highly of its use in fevers.