

The Home Concert.

Well, Tom, my boy, I must say good-bye. I've had a wonderful visit here; Enjoyed it, too, as well as I could...

MISS CUTHBERT'S BIRTHDAY.

"Miss Cuthbert, are you an old maid?" The governess looked up in surprise from the columns of figures she had been correcting...

artists mentioned. One is that dried-up Mr. Finnis, he's so fond of. "Who, by the way, is an artist of great merit," remarked Miss Alice, with much asperity...

she sat at the organ the other evening struck me and haunted me until I made a sketch and christened it St. Cecilia. "Excellent! That heavy coil of hair, that sweep of drapery, and that absorbed look are all perfect..."

"I could not be the 'lily maid of Astolat' if I did not smile on Lancelot. "But I cannot paint you, for I have rarely seen you smile—have never once seen you look glad and care-free..."

WOMAN. What the Poets Think of Her—The Days of Chivalry—Some Noted Women. Oh, woman! lovely woman! Nature made thee too temperant: we had been brutes without thee...

A FIGHT FOR LIFE WITH RATS. An Army of Rats Attacking a Signal Service Officer and His Wife—Conquering the Rodents by Electricity—Terrible Fate of a Child. The vast number of rats inhabiting the rocky crevices and cavernous passages at the summit of Pike's Peak, in Colorado, have recently become formidable and dangerous...

Items of Interest. Onba has been fighting for freedom for nine years. The first newspaper in England was issued in 1588. The wealthiest farmer in Nebraska is Isaham G. Chicken. He certainly should always have a full crop. In Bath Abbey is to be seen the following epitaph: "Here lies Ann Mann; she lived an old maid and died an old Mann..."

An Ant Fight.

An interesting account of an engagement between a party of red and of black ants is related by a correspondent of the Forest and Stream. "Last week, as I was coming in the gate," says the writer, "my attention was attracted by seeing a stream of ants moving across the walk, going in different directions. They were traveling in a belt about four inches wide, and moving very rapidly..."

Wheat Production.

The following table gives the annual production of wheat in the United States for twelve years, together with the annual exports and the home consumption, and wastage:

A Nose Fashioner.

Dr. Did, an inventive surgeon of Paris, noticed that elderly people who for a long time have worn eye-glasses reported on the nose by a spring are apt to have this organ long and thin. This he attributes to the compression which he attributes to the arteries by the spring exercise is nourished. Not long which the nose of a young lady of fifteen consulted him to see if he could restore to moderate dimensions her nose, which was large, fleshy and unsightly. He took exact measurement, and had constructed for her a "tunette prince-nez"—a spring and pad for compressing the artery which was worn at night, and when she conveniently could in the daytime. In three weeks a consoling diminution was evident, and in three months the young lady was quite satisfied with the improvement in her features. This story recalls Captain Maryatt's phenological description.

Huber, the blind man, who wrote the best book on bees, derived his knowledge of their habits and instincts from the observations of his wife.

Mary Cuniz, one of the greatest geniuses in the sixteenth century, was born in Siena. She learned languages with amazing facility, and understood German, French, Polish, Italian, Latin, Greek and Hebrew. She attained a knowledge of the sciences with equal ease; she was skilled in history, physics, poetry, painting, music, and playing upon instruments; and yet she was only an amusee. She more particularly applied herself to mathematics, and especially to astronomy, which she made her principal study, and was ranked in the number of the most able astronomers of her time. Her astronomical tables acquired her a prodigious reputation. The wife of Alphonse de Lamartine, the French poet, was mistress of many languages, and excelled both in music and painting, and was also a brilliant writer. Madame Lamartine was at her husband's side until his death, and she herself wrote diligently to free him from debt. She suffered acutely for him, whose honor and fortune then seemed trembling in the balance. The delicate face became wrinkled and the sweet voice was often tremulous with anxiety. When Lamartine was finishing an article on Beranger, at a time of great political excitement in Paris, she was nearly beside herself, lest by any verbal imprudence he should get himself into trouble. Her husband's printer was also greatly alarmed at the political allusion in his article; but Lamartine, obstinately deaf to all their entreaties, vowed that every line should go to the public just as it was written, or not at all. Madame Lamartine was at her husband's side. Finally a gentleman, a mutual friend, got leave from her husband to read over the proofs and modify the offensive expressions. All the long night that gentleman was occupied, Madame Lamartine sat up, sending into the library to him little suggestive notes of her own. At last the poor, weary friend was so overpowered with fatigue and sleep that he was obliged to desist and go to bed; but when he awoke next morning, he found a small paper pushed through the key-hole of his door—a last idea from the indefatigable Madame Lamartine, who had not herself slept a wink all night. This gentleman took all the credit of the alterations, while the good wife kept silence, and sent her husband's article to the press. Madame Lamartine was often the amanuensis and proof-reader of her husband.—Troy Times.

Japanese Proverbs.

Better avoid blame than seek praise. A beaten soldier fears a reed. Great men are spoken of for seventy-five days. The lower part of the candlestick is black. (The nearer the church the farther from God.) There are people who have read Confucius and still have not read him. The skill of a poor man is not much believed in. When there are too many boatsmen the boat is much maintained. Until polished the precious stone is not brilliant.

Fashion Notes.

Simple and pretty wraps for autumn days are square shawls of India or of French cashmere of solid color, lightly fringed, and worn in fashionable fashion crossed on the breast and tied behind. Long slender sashes, of medium length, made of the new rough cloth, double breasted, buttoned their entire length, and with coat backs behind, will be favorite wraps for fall and winter. The Carrick cloak—a long Ulster shape, with three small round capes known as coachmen's capes—is the stylish overall. It is seen in rain cloaks made of water-proof cloth, and in the English cloths of gray invisible plaids used for traveling cloaks. Many beaded ornaments are used in bonnets, the preference being for the blue-gray clair de lune beads; there are also many jet trines, draps, and netted pieces, while for brown, maroon, moss, olive, bronze, and other colored cloths the mordore or golden brown beads are used. The majority of the new bonnets are small cottage shapes and close-fitting capotes, but there are many large Marie Stuart bonnets, with pointed front and flowing plume, and there are also dresy Bergeuse hats, with little crown and spreading brims—gay and dresy shapes for young folks. New ornamental bows for the throat are of ribbons of two contrasting colors tying a small cluster of flowers on shells of Valenciennes lace, and from thence the ribbons hang in ends a yard long. Vulcan red ribbons contrasting with pale blue or with magdalen yellow make pretty bows. The most stylish colors in head gear are mousine, or moss green; Vulcan red, more brilliant than scarlet, and containing much of the mandarin yellow shade; clair de lune gray, with blue tinges; and the old-fashioned silver grey; rose coral, a delicate shade for brightening sombre hues, and the dark myrtle green of last year. The hair is dressed with reference to the shape of the bonnets. For bonnets to be worn on dresy occasions, the coiffure is high soft loops and puffs on top of the head. For the close shapes the back hair is arranged in a flat chataine loop very low on the nape of the neck, or else the chataine is braided in wide basket braids of seven strands or more. Feathers and flowers are more beautiful than in any former season. The bird of Paradise, with its golden plumage, is the choice for expensive bonnets. There are, however, the pretty "hens' breasts, peacocks' breasts, and many other stiff and slender feathers for less costly hats. Ostrich tips and the long Marie Stuart plumes are used in profusion. The materials for the new bonnet are plush or velvet trimmed with satin. The plush may be plain or striped. Some broad silks in Marguerite pattern are used for crowns of special bonnets. There are also some kid bonnets like those introduced last year, and there are very fine felt bonnets with plain cut edges, while others are wrought with jet or with clair de lune beads.