

Odd Titles of Books.

Victor Hugo tells us that, being behindhand with his publisher in his agreement to write "Notre Dame de Paris," he looked up his clothes, bought a knitted woolen suit, and shut himself up in the house for a few months until his work was completed.

In every age it has been a matter of great consideration with authors as to the title under which they shall issue their works; publishers agree with them in the importance they attach to this point, as the public are easily attracted by a taking title.

The Oriental and Jewish nations, on the contrary, sought for the most obscure and ridiculous titles. Who could imagine that "The Heart of Aaron" was a commentary on the prophets?

When we reach the Middle Ages, authors in the West seem to have adopted the Eastern fashion, and tried to make their titles as extravagant and fantastic as those of the East.

It would seem as if the writers of works of devotion had a particular preference for strange titles—perhaps to counteract the attractive dryness of their subject-matter.

In the sixteenth century we find the greatest extravagance displayed in the titles of books. They may be taken as examples: "The Pious Lark, with its Trill—the Little Body and Feathers of our dear and spiritual Songs," by Father Autome de la Cuchacha.

A Quaker who was suffering in prison published "A Sign for the Sinners in Zion, coming from a Hole in the Wall, by an Earthen Vessel, known among Men under the name of Samuel Fish."

Another of the same name published "A Sign for the Sinners in Zion, coming from a Hole in the Wall, by an Earthen Vessel, known among Men under the name of Samuel Fish."

Extraordinary title: "Judas, Archicoquin; Fi du Monde; Attention Soldat."

A work on the consideration of the name taken by the popes, "Seresus Sererorum," has the title of "A Hunt after the Stag of Stags" and, not unnaturally, it has been classified in a recent catalogue among works relating to hunting.

Sometimes, in the midst of political quarrels, works have been announced, the satirical titles of which were the only portions of them that ever appeared. Brantome tells us that when the Duke of Epernon was made governor of Provence, a book was made in mockery of him, and cried before the palace as it passed through the streets.

The Lake of Petrus, in Central America, has no outlet to the sea. It occupies the centre of a territorial basin, of which that of the Great Salt Lake affords us an example.

"One morning a crocodile was brought to me alive; it was three yards in length, and had been captured in the lake. The fishermen had caught it with a hook baited with the heart of a bullock."

"By a sudden and desperate effort, for I was still feeble from illness, I managed to clamber up to the cross-beams of the house, from which my hammock was suspended, whence I shouted vigorously to Morin. As usual, he slept soundly, and was not a little startled on hearing a voice from aloft.

"The Squire's Indiscretion.—Old Squire H— was a very successful and substantial farmer in an interior town in Massachusetts, and a more amazing eater never lived in any town anywhere.

"Don't be Discouraged.—A crow, ready to die with thirst, flew with joy to a pitcher, which he saw at a distance. But when he came up to it, he found the water so low, that with all his stooping and straining he was unable to reach it.

"The Woman's Journal sensibly says: 'The world does not want women who are good lawyers and bad mothers—clever physicians and unfaithful wives—clear-headed and empty hearted—nor from these shall come a completed womanhood.'

American Girls as Street Flirts.

The freedom enjoyed by our young women is a perfect marvel to foreigners. They are entirely incapable of understanding how it accords with safety and the preservation of good morals.

Can nothing be done to mend this? The German *Telegraph* recently moved that the State take all the roads, and manage things pretty much as it manages schools and some other matters.

On Churning Butter.—I would ask you, or any of your correspondents, if there ever have been any experiments with cream to prove that quick churning is injurious to the quantity or quality? I don't agree with your correspondents and others, as regards the time required to churn.

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FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

BAD ROADS.—It is generally supposed that the weather or one's health is the staple topic of casual conversation. This may be so with pedestrians; but with those of us who make use of horseflesh, "terrible roads" come in for a good share of general remark.

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NEW YORK MARKETS.

Flour and Meal.—The market for flour was not active, but superior and low extra were firmer, and more inquiry; the other grades were quiet and dull.

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