# Rural Economy.

HORSE RACING.

The amusements of the turf have of late heen spreading through our country at a fearful rate. We are sorry that our county fairs have done much to stimulate the tendency. It is high time that some correctives were applied. The Rev. S. F. Scovel, in the admirable address delivered by him, before the Students' Christian Association of Washington and Jefferson College, speaks thus plainly and pointedly on this

The racing of horses is destitute of all the commendations of the athletic sports. Intrinsically, it is cruel. Besides this, it is utterly unnecessary. The argument of utility, so often used, is the merest sham. The difference in speed between 2.14 and is worth knowing, without the racing. The horse is a noble animal, and his culture may be a dignified branch of business; but only so much the more reason why the one should not be racked and strained by racing, or the other disgraced by all that accompanies the sport. To prove most distinctly the corrupting tendency of the amusement, let us go where it is established on the most favorable footing, where all which are by no means jaundiced by prejudice against the race, you shall see such a scene as this :- "At last the race is over; the crowd begins to move in the distance. and at the last I hear borne down to my solitary place (the writer had retired from the course to the station) a roar as of a minister at Washington, it is the favorite who has won the Derby. Then comes in the crowd—nay, reels in—tipsy, excited, paration. swaring, trampling one upon another, each trying for the first seat in the train. And as we go swiftly homeward, there are on singing, 'Slap, bang, here we are again.' Those have lost, these have won. But that goes to the Derby—a day at least."—(M. D. Conway, in Round Table, June 9th, 1866.) And this when the proprieties were sustained by the presence of Royalty and all the nobility.

And note how this one social sin develops the power of all others, and becomes a nucleus about which they gather. Take another description. It is the "testimony of an English secular journal, which makes no pretensions to superior morality," and is therefore extorted through all an Englishman's pride and respect for old customs, by the shameful facts:—"The drawing-day of a great annual lottery. Epsom Downs, we should say that at least well-nigh universal semi-intoxication we should ascribe the extraordinary coarseness of language and gesture which characterized the conduct of the crowd. Possibly our view may seem exaggerated, but as matter of fact, we believe that the chief first place, in the possibility afforded by second, in the extraordinary license of conduct and language which, some how or other, has become recognized as permissimerston called our 'Isthmian games.'"-The Spectator.

"Somehow or other," the writer is lisorder and turmoil, are the natural outgrowth of the institution. The character of the sport is brutal, and all brutal phases of nature may be expected to turn upward that day. There may be some growths the philosophy of which is obscure, but he growth of such a mass of corruption about such a point of sin, is no marvel.

## RIPE BREAD.

Bread made of wheat flour, when taken stomach. It should go through a change, or ripen, before it is eaten. Young persons in the enjoyment of vigorous health but weakly and aged persons cannot; and the change in newly-brewed beer, or newlychurned buttermilk, neither being healthy until after the change. During the change in bread, it sends off a large portion of carbon or unhealthy gas, and imbibes a large portion of oxygen or healthy gas. Bread has, according to the computation of physicians, one fifth more nutriment in it when ripe than when just out of the oven. It not only has more nutriment, but imparts a much greater degree of cheerfulness. He that eats old, ripe bread will have a a gleaming mist, together with half a dozen and imbibes oxygen. One thing in cock was so close to the vessel, that no connection with this thought should be one durst go near to turn it and stop the first all ynoticed by all housewives. It is, together with half a dozen the vessel, that no durst go near to turn it and stop the spoonfuls) of crystallized carbonate of soda in a few ounces of warm water, and stir in a few warehouse, 43 S. Second Street, below Market, for Fresh Green a

nor in a bedroom. The noxious vapors of for the most part "burnt" iron; but the with a few ounces of water; then mix in a into and form a part of the bread we eat. induce Bessemer to make a second trial, taining the water should not be more than half full, otherwise the water may boil up into the steamer, and wet the bread. After ple, it could not fail before long to effect m. Bunsen, an eminent German chemist, the bread is thus steamed, it should be an entire revolution in the iron trade. bread.—American Farmer.

#### A NEW TEXTILE.

trom Nevada is agricultural rather than mineral, but very important. It is of a new textile, such as was eagerly sought time, when a volcano-like eruption of flame a poisonous dose of this mineral salt should when the rebellion broke out, but unsuc- and sparks suddenly occurred, and bright immediately swallow as much white of egg, cessfully. The plant now discovered has red-hot scorize or cinders were forcibly well mixed with water, as the stomach will classes are represented at the races, and its home in the Humboldt valley, where it ejected, which would have inflicted serious bear. There is no danger from excess, and where the institution is old enough to have grows in large quantities, and ean, of arrived at its fullest development. Go to the English turf, and, looking through eyes cultivation; while, if it has the values a few minutes all was again tranquil, and the resultivation is old enough to have grows in large quantities, and ean, of they might perchance have struck. After a few minutes all was again tranquil, and the resultivation is old enough to have grows in large quantities, and ean, of they might perchance have struck. After a few minutes all was again tranquil, and the resultivation is old enough to have grows in large quantities, and ean, of they might perchance have struck. After a few minutes all was again tranquil, and the resultivation is old enough to have grows in large quantities, and ean, of they might perchance have struck. After a few minutes all was again tranquil, and the resultivation is old enough to have grows in large quantities, and ean, of they might perchance have struck. After a few minutes all was again tranquil, and the resultivation is old enough to have grows in large quantities, and ean, of they might perchance have struck. After a few minutes all was again tranquil, and the resultivation is old enough to have grows in large quantities, and ean, of they might perchance have struck. After a few minutes all was again tranquil, and they might perchance have struck and they might perchance have struck and they might perchange the perchange of the perchan which are ascribed to it, it will soon be re- the molten malleable iron was tapped off." moved to other fields and propagated among regular crops. The plant is said, by the discoverers, to be superior to any textile like Burnham wood toward Dunsinane, now in use. Though styled hemp, it is so called on account of its closer similarity to that than to any other growth. It has a stronger and finer fibre than the proper coming flood. Then there is a whirr of hemp, and a much longer staple. In prowheels, then voices crying, Lord Lyon! portion to the wood, too, the fibre is much Lord Lyon! It is not the late English more abundant. It can be more easily

Nevada lies between 37 deg. and 42 deg. north. This corresponds with the latitude of Northern California, of San Francisco, one side besotted men muttering oaths, Salt Lake City, Indianapolis, Columbus and there are besotted men on the other and Philadelphia. The Humboldt river, along which the new hemp grows, runs from the mountains of that name westward, night I conclued that one always loses who through a mountainous country. If, therefore, experiment proves what is now claimed for this textile, it can be prolonged in its cultivation from its original habitat to our own doors, and will enhance the value of the hemp harvest in those States where it is now an important feature.

## Scienkikic.

#### BESSEMER'S PROCESS.

It will be remembered that, some ten years since, the minds of inventors were Derby is nothing more nor less than the running, as they still are, in the direction of improved guns. It was believed that The amount of money that must change | these might be made much stronger if some hands each anniversary of the race is absolutely incalculable. You may be pretty and Bessemer, like many others, began a and Bessemer, like many others, began a certain that every cabman who has driven series of experiments to solve the problem, you for the last month, every man-servant if he could. He first tried a mixture or who has waited upon you, every postman, cast iron and dast steel, the result being a policeman, porter you meet, every crossing- half-decarbonized cast iron. Guns made sweeper to whom you give a penny, had a of this metal were found to possess great stake upon the race, small, perhaps, in strength, but as they were of comparatively small bore, 24-pounders, Bessem There is not a public house in any town in solved to make them on a larger scale, for England, and very few in the most secluded the purpose of more conclusively testing rural districts, which has not had its Derby | the strength of the material. In the course succep. The truth is, that the crowd on of his experiments, the idea occurred to Epsom Downs is a crowd of gamblers, and him, that if he could contrive to blow air has the code, the manners, the aspect, the recklessless and the extravagance of gamblers. \* \* Of the twenty thousand He thought that by thus bringing oxygen people who, it is calculated, were present at | into contract with the fluid metal, the carbon with which it was surcharged would nincteen thousand left the course more or be removed as well as the silicon, phospholess the worse for liquor. To this state of rus and sulphur which it contained. This is exactly what is done, after another and very laborious method, in the process of puddling. He proposed to reverse the process, and so get rid of puddling altogether. Instead of bringing the particles of the iron in turn into contact with the attractions of the Derby consist, in the oxygen of the air, his scheme was to force the air through the fluid mass into conthe race, of picking up money; and the tact with the separated particles of the iron. Now that the thing is done, we see how simple, how natural the first idea was. But it needs the quick intuition of genius ble on the great day of what Lord Pal- to detect even simple things in practical science.

The only way of determining the matter was by putting the idea to the test of extoo honest to know that such a fearful periment. Accordingly, early in 1856, aggregation of vices and the vicious, such Bessemer ordered a stock of Blaenavon iron, and set up a blast-engine and cupola at Baxter House, St. Pancras, where he then resided. The first apparatus which he used for conversion was a fixed cylindrical vessel three feet in diameter and four feet high, somewhat like an ordinary cupola furnace, lined with fire-bricks; and at some two inches from the bottom he inserted five twyer pipes, with orifices about three-eighths of an inch in diameter. About half-way up was a hole for running in the molten metal, and on the opposite out of the oven, is unprepared for the side at the bottom was the tap-hole, by which the metal was to be run off at the

end of the process. The first experiment was not made withmay eat bread immediately after being out occasioning considerable alarm. It was baked without any sensible injury from it; a most unusual precess, and it looked dangerous, as indeed it proved to be. When none can eat such without doing harm to the charge of pig-iron was melted, the the digestive organs. Bread, after being blast was turned on to prevent it running as for the prussic acid, except that the baked, goes through a change similar to into the twyer holes, and then the fluid metal was poured in through the charging hole by the attending stoker. A tremendous commotion immediately took place within the vessel; the molten iron bounded from side to side; a violent ebullition was heard going on within; while a vehement formed. In this case, in consequence of violet-colored frame, accompanied with the possible presence of free acid in the dazzling sparks, burst from the throat of stomach, the alkaline liquid should be the cupola, from which the slag was also given first. The quantities given, as the ejected in large foam-like masses. A castiron plate, of the kind used to cover holes grains of cyanide of potassium. in the pavement, that had been suspended over the mouth of the vessel, dissolved in

the oxygen in a pure state. Bread will and the fire-engines were sent for in hot mixture destroys about ten grains of aralways taste of the air that surrounds it haste. Before they arrived, however, the while ripening; hence it should ripen fury of decarbonization had expended itself, where the air is pure. It should never and the product was run off. The result fluid drachms or teaspoonfuls and seven ripen in a cellar, nor in a close cupboard, was not quite satisfactory; the product was a cellar or cupboard never should enter experiment was sufficiently encouraging to cream formed of 90 grains of calcined mag-Bread should be light, well baked, and pro- and the product was found to be malleable stir till, after gelatinizing, the mixture perly ripened before it should be eaten. iron. In the course of further experiments, Bread that is several days old may be re- it was found that by interrupting the pronewed so as to have all the freshness and cess before the decarburization of the iron lightness of new bread, by simply putting was complete, the product was unmistakeit into a common steamer over the fire, and able steel, which was tried and found of little water into a smooth cream. In this steaming it half or three-quarters of an good quality. Here was a discovery of state it can destroy twenty grains of tartar hour. The vessel under the steamer con- immense importance. If malleable iron

taken out of the steamer and wrapped The news of Bessemer's discovery soon loosely in a cloth, to dry and cool, and re- flew abroad, and many distinguished metal-2.18 or 20, is of no sort of practical value. main so a short time, when it will be cut lurgists went to see the process. Among of iron, formed in the process already given, it is possible to know all about a horse that and used. It will then be like cold new others, Dr. Percy went, and thus describes by the addition of the perchloride of iron what he saw:-

The last discovery which comes to us witnessed any metallurgical process more

Though the Doctor came away wondering, he was not convinced. He analyzed a portion of the iron which he had seen produced, and when he found it to contain one per cent. of phosphorus, he says his scep- other pain or ill consequence. ticism was rather confirmed than other-

Among other visitors at Baxter House was the late George Rennie, the engineer, who, after witnessing the process, urged Bessemer to draw up an account of it for the meeting of the British Association at Cheltenham in the autumn of 1856. To this the inventor assented, and the result was his paper "On the manufacture of iron and steel with out fuel." On the morning of the day on which the

paper was to be read, Bestemer was sitting at breakfast in his hotel, when an ironmas tor (to whom he was unknown) said, laughing, to a friend within his hearing, "Do you know there is some one come down from London to read a paper on making steel from cast iron without fuel! Did you ever hear of such rubbish?" The ironmaster was, however, of a different opinion as to the new invention after he heard the paper read. Its title was certainly a misnomer, but the correctness of the principles on which the pig-iron was converted into malleable iron, as explained by the inventor, was generally recognized, and there seemed to be good grounds for anticipating that the process would, before long, come into general use. The rationale of the method of conversion was intelligible and simple. Mr. Bessemer held that by forcing atmospheric air through the fluid metal, the oxygen was brought into contact with the several particles of the iron and carbon, combining with the latter to form carbonic acid gas, which passed off by the throat of the vessel, through which the slag was also ejected, leaving as the product, when the combustion was complete, a mass of malleable iron, which was run off by the tap into the ingot moulds placed for its reception. quiring no manipulation or particular skill, and with only one workman, from three to five tons of crude iron pass into the condition of several piles of malleable iron, in from thirty to thirty-five minutes, with the expenditure of about one-third part of the blast now used in a fiery furnance with an equal charge of iron, and with the consumption of no other fuel than is contained in

the crude iron."\* In the same paper, the inventor called attention to an important feature of the new process in the following words:-" At the stage of the process immediately following the boil, the whole of the crude iron has passed into the condition of cast steel of ordinary quality. By the continuation of the process, the steel so produced gradually loses its small remaining portion of carbon, and passes successively from hard to soft steel, and from softened steel to steely iron, and eventually to very soft iron; hence, at a certain point of the process, any quality may be obtained."

\*Paper read before the British Association at Cheltenham, August, 1856. (To be Concluded.)

## ANTIDOTES FOR POISONS.

In the British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review we find the following statements: Messrs. T. & T. C. Smith claim to have discovered a common antidote for prussic acid, antimony and arsenic.

Prussic Acid Antidote. Take of liquor of perchloride of iron 57 minims (drops): protosulphate of iron in crystals, as pure as possible, 25 grains; as much water as will make a solution of a protosesquisalt of iron, measuring about half an ounce. Dissolve, on the other hand, 77 grains of crystalized, carbonate of soda in about half, an ounce of water. These quantities destroy the poisonous action of between 100 and 200 drops of prussic acid, officinal strength, in giving

first the one liquid and then the other." Antidote for Cyanide of Potassium. The antidote for this compound is the same solution of protosequisalt of iron is to be used without the alkaline or sods solution, the prussic (hydrocyanic) acid being already combined with an alkali. The use of the alkali, however, would not be injurious-a harmless yellow prussiate would be prussic acid antidote, would decompose 35

Antidote for Arsenious Acid. White Arsenic. Measure out 5 fluid drachms and 7

Antidote for Tartar Emetic.-Mix 5 drops of liquor of the perchloride of iron nesia, rubbed up with water in a mortar; again gets thin; empty the mixture into a calico or muslin cloth, and press out the ILLUSTRATIONS IN OIL COLORS. liquid; remove the mass from the cloth into a clean mortar, and rub it up with a emetic. It can also be used as an antidote

and Dr. Berthollet, declare, as the results of their carefully-conducted experiments on the subject, that the hydrated peroxide to carbonate of soda, is a better antidote "Toward the end of 1856, I had the pleasure of seeing the process in operation at Baxter House, and I confess I never rosive sublimate.

Albumen, the antidote for corrosive sub-School, February, 1825, swallowed by mistake a glass of the concentrated solution of corrosive sublimate. In five minutes whites of egg were obtained and taken. He vomited repeatedly, but never had any

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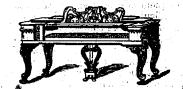
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