

CHAMPAGNE.

From London Society.

Notwithstanding its celebrity, champagne is the youngest as well as the liveliest of wines. As you journey from Paris to the village of Hautvillers, standing above the vine-clad banks of the Marne, here there is an ancient monastery, in which lived a joyous monk, Dom Perignon by name, who a hundred and fifty years ago, gave the world the invention of champagne. On account of his many virtues, in which an accurate taste and a clear head were conspicuous, he took charge of the broad sunny vineyards of the abbey, and had the control of the cellars of the establishment. Even as a blind old man his taste distinguished between different kinds of grapes and, according to an old chronicler, he would give wise instructions concerning them, saying "that the wine of one grape must be married to the wine of another." His powerful mind also conceived the happy idea that the insertion of a cork in a bottle might more effectually answer the purposes which had hitherto been attained by the primitive stopper of a bunch of flax soaked in oil. He had already raised the famous reputation of his monastery to a great height when by a lucky chance he hit upon the invention of the effervescent wine known as champagne. The jovial monks kept the secret as long as they could, but at length it transpired, and the new wine in due course adorned the suppers of the Regent and of Louis Quinze.

becomes an interesting subject for economic discussion, whether it can be so far cheapened as to become generally available in cases where this kind of stimulant is needed, and also as a wine of ordinary consumption at our tables. We have before expressed a strong general opinion of the superiority of light wines over heavy wines, which we regret to see is by no means generally shared, as yet, by the middle classes in this country. But the people who mistakenly prefer sherry to claret would still, we think, prefer champagne to sherry. The practical question is whether we may not obtain a champagne as cheap as sherry. Now, undoubtedly, many cheap champagnes are obtainable, and so far as fiz and foam and carbonic acid gas are concerned, these wines can hardly be distinguished by the uninitiated from those more magnificent wines for which magnificent prices must be paid. A certain degree of suspicion belongs to these cheap wines, which is not unnatural when we consider the enormous amount of fictitious and adulterated wines which are in the market. Some time ago there was a trial at law which related to a way of manufacturing champagne in this country, much the same as soda water is made, but the process proved unsatisfactory, and brought its ingenious inventor into much deserved trouble. It is very probable that similar processes are in a prosperous state of activity in the metropolis. Still, there is no doubt that effervescent wines may be made in the champagne country and be imported so cheap as to be sold at very low prices, and these cheap champagnes may make a pleasant enough lunch beverage, in one point of view to be greatly preferred to sherry, especially when the sherry comes from Hamburg. The public gain an advantage when they deal with those houses who have established stores of their own in France, where they can command good vineyards or purchase crops direct from the growers, storing their own wines until ready for shipment. These cheap champagnes can be procured at twenty-four or thirty shillings a dozen in some places, which are sold at other places for thirty or forty.

Whittier's New Poems. A new volume of poems by Whittier, entitled "Among the Hills," is to be published in a few weeks. The principal poem is a domestic story, the scene of which is laid among the hills of New Hampshire. The following extracts will give some idea of the poem:— A farmer's son, Proud of field-lure and harvest-craft, and feeling All their line possibilities, how rich And restful even poverty and toil Become when beauty, harmony, and love Sit at their humble hearth as angels sat. At evening in the patriarch's tent, when man Makes labor noble, and his farmer's frock The symbol of a Christian chivalry, Tender and just, and generous to her Who clothes with grace all duty; still, I know Too well the picture has another side; How wearily the grind of toil goes on, Where love is wanting, how the eye and ear And heart are starved amidst the plenteitude Of nature, and how hard and colorless Is life without an atmosphere. I look Across the lapse of half a century, And call to mind old homesteads, where no flower Told that the spring had come, but evil weeds, Nightshade and rough-leaved burdock in the place Of the sweet drowsy gleaning of the rose And honeysuckle, where the house walls seemed Blistering in sun, without tree or vine To cast the tremulous shadow of its leaves Across the curtainless windows from whose panes Fluttered the signal rags of shiftness; Within, the cluttered kitchen floor, unwashed (Droom-clean, I think they called it); the best room Stiffing with cellar damp, shut from the air In hot midsummer, bookless, pictureless Save the lumbering sampler of Freedom made, Over the fire-place, or a mourning-piece, A green-haired woman, peony-cheeked, beneath Impossible willows; the wide-throated hearth Blistering with faded pine-boughs half concealed; The piled-up rubbish at the chimney's back; And, in sad keeping with all things about them, Shriek, querulous women, sour and sullen men, Untidy, loveless, old before their time, With scarce a human interest save their own Monotonous round of small economies, Or the poor scandal of the neighborhood; Blind to the beauty everywhere revealed, Treading the May-flowers with regardless feet; For them the song-sparrow, and the bobolink Sang not, nor wind made music in the leaves; The sun and rain Overture to a holocaust; Burned, gold and crimson, over all the hills, The sacramental mystery of the woods. Church-goers, fearful of the unseen Powers, But grumbling over pulpit-tax and pew-rent, Saving, as shrewd economists, their souls And winter pork with the least possible outlay Of salt and sanctity; in daily life Showing as little actual comprehension Of Christian character and love and duty, As if the sermon on the mount had been Outdated like a last year's almanac; Rich in broad woodlands and in half-tilled fields, And yet so pinched and bare and comfortless. The vestal straggle limping in his rounds, The sun and air his sole inheritance, Laughed at a poverty that paid its taxes, And hugged its rags in self-complacency! Not such should be the homesteads of a land Where who were wisely wits and acts may dwell As king and lawgiver, in broad-acreated state, With beauty, art, taste, culture, books, to make His hour of leisure richer than a life Of fence-roes to the barons of old time, Or yeoman should be equal to his horse; Set in the fair green valleys, purple walled, A man to match his mountains, not to creep Dwarfed and abased below them. I would faint In this light way (of which I must needs swim, With the knife-grinder of whom Canning sings, "Story, God bless you! I have none to tell you") Invite the eye to see and heart to feel The beauty and the joy within their reach—Home, and home loves, and the beautitudes Of nature free to all. Happily in years That wait to take the places of our own, I heard where some breezy balcony looks down On happy homes, or where the lake in the moon Sleeps dreaming of the mountains, fair as Ruth, In the old Hebrew pastoral, at the feet Of Boaz, even this simple lay of mine May seem the burden of a prophecy, Finding its late fulfillment in a change Slow as the oak's growth, lifting manhood up Through broader culture, finer manners, love, And reverence, to the level of the hills.

The Iron Works of Chicago. Fifteen Thousand Men Employed—A Business of \$25,000,000 a Year. The Chicago Times publishes a very long and elaborate descriptive article showing the extent of the iron business, and giving the name and size of, and the amount of capital and labor employed, and work turned out by, each of the foundries and workshops in that city. From this article the following interesting facts and figures are taken:— "The Iron Interest of Chicago employs fifteen thousand men, to whom is paid the yearly sum of \$12,000,000 for their labor; \$15,000,000 is invested in the manufacture of iron, which does a business of about \$25,000,000 per annum. The number of iron establishments in the city amounts to one hundred, which are engaged in the manufacture of axes, boilers, cutlery, dirks, derricks, engines, edge-tools, farm implements, gauges, gearing, hoes, horse nails, iron joints, keys, lathe, lighting rods, mining machinery, mowers, mouldings, needles, nails, ordnance plate and pig-iron, picks, plough points, quadrants, ranges, shovels, tanks, tanks, utensils of all kinds, size, and value. "The 'Eagle Works' are situated in the west side of the city, and their different buildings occupy different sites on five streets—370 feet on Clinton street, 150 feet on Madison street, 500 on Canal street, 108 on West Water street, and 210 on Cass street. The principal articles manufactured in these works are engines, boilers, flouring-mills, gang-mills, circular saw-mills, stamp-mills, ore and rock crushers, and general running machinery. This establishment employs in the neighborhood of one thousand men, whose annual pay-roll exceeds \$300,000. The estimated value of the property, including machinery and buildings, is \$500,000. "The 'Northwestern Manufacturing Company's Works' are run upon the co-operative system, and with a capital of \$500,000, employ 375 men, and do a business of about \$300,000 per annum. This establishment has also a branch called the 'Northwestern Pipe Works,' which has a capital of \$50,000, and employs 25 men. "The Barnum and Richardson Manufacturing Company make castings and car-wheels. Their works cover more than an acre of ground. They employ 75 men, have a capital of \$150,000, and do an average yearly business of \$400,000. "McCormick's Reaper and Mower Works' is perhaps the most interesting manufacturing establishment in Chicago. "The buildings cover an area of 400 by 500 feet, in the business centre of the city. The business began here in 1848, twenty-two years ago, and since that time 100,000 harvesting machines have been manufactured in those works. Fifteen years ago 1000 machines per annum were considered a big undertaking, and predictions were then made that at that rate the country would soon be over-supplied. But now 10,000 machines per year do not begin to supply the demand, which is greatly increasing, and now already overmatch the capacity of the works. Five hundred men are constantly employed in those works. "Each machine contains not less than 1000 separate pieces of wood, iron, steel, brass, copper, tin, and zinc, making the enormous number of 10,000,000 pieces, which have to be made, counted, assorted, inspected, classified, packed, and shipped in one year's business. "The following is the amount of raw material worked up in this establishment during the year:—Lumber, 25,000,000 feet; pig iron, 3000 tons; bar iron 1500 tons; paints, 100,000 pounds; oils, 5000 gallons; zinc, 125,000 pounds; steel and other metals, 150,000 pounds; and 2000 tons of coal. The item of scrap lumber, the cuttings left after sawing out the peculiar shaped pieces needed in a harvesting machine, amounts to nearly 600,000 feet of lumber per annum, which provide about all the fuel necessary to make steam for the works. Everything in this establishment is done by machinery, whether of wood or iron. In the blacksmith shops, the bar iron, of large and small sizes, from five and a half to four and a half inches round, is cut up by inches like so many pipe-stems. Even the forges are supplied with a steady blast of air from a large fan driven by steam. The machine shop contains one hundred lathes, drills, boring, key-seat cutting, screw-cutting, and planing machines, worked by an almost endless arrangement of belts and pulleys. In the sickle shop of this establishment is an ingenious machine for cutting the teeth in the sickle edge, which does the work of two or three men, and much more accurately. "The machine shops of the Illinois Central Railway are also in Chicago. They employ 800 men in their establishment, whose monthly pay amounts to \$50,000. Their entire works, including their car-shops in the south end of the city, cover about sixteen acres of ground. The cost of construction of the machine shops alone amounts to \$150,000. The road has 4000 cars and 168 locomotives. They have on the stocks, nearly finished, four of the largest engines ever built in the West, each one weighing about thirty-one tons. The amount of raw material these works have on hand is valued at \$300,000. They use up 2200 tons of coal per annum, principally Lehigh and Illinois."

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