THE PRISON IVY.

BY CHARLES MACKAY.

The ivy in a dungeon grew,
Unfed by rain, uncheered by dew;
Its pallid leaflets only drank
Chve moistures foul and odors dank:

But through the dungeon grating high
There fell a sunbeam from the sky;
It slept upon the grateful floor
In silent sadness evermore.

The ivy felt a tremor shoot
Through all its fires to the root;
It felt the light, it saw the ray,
It strove to blossom into day.

It grew, it crept, it pushed, it clomb—
Long had the darkness been its home;
But well it knew, though veiled in night,
The goodness and the joy of light.

Its clinging roots grew deep and strong,
Its stem expanded firm and long;
And in the currents of the air
Its tender blossoms flourished fair.

It reached the beam—it trilled, it curled,
It blessed the warmth that cheers the world;
It rose toward the dungeon-bars,
It looked upon the sun and stars.

It felt the life of bursting Spring,
It heard the happy skylark sing;
It caught the breath of morns and eves,
And wooed the swallow to its leaves.

By rains and dews and sunshine fed,
Over the outer wall it spread;
And in the day-beam waving free,
It grew into a steadfast tree.

Upon the solitary place
Its verdure threw adorning grace;
The mating birds became its guests,
And sung its praises from their nests.

Wouldst thou know the moral of the rhyme?
Behold the heavenly light! and climb.
To every dungeon comes a ray
Of God's interminable day.

AGRICULTURAL.

House Plants.

In spite of the many practical difficulties in the way of complete success, those who really love in-door gardening will contrive to have some growing things around them. Beginners in this work desire nothing so much as good advice; and we now propose to offer a little. First, then, in regard to air. So long as we warmed our houses by fire-places or open wood-stoves, and did not make our rooms air-tight, it was comparatively easy to raise house plants; but with air-tight coal stoves and furnaces, and with hot, unventilated rooms, it is very difficult. Some measures must be taken to counteract this excessive dryness of the air. One method is to keep a pan of water in the hot air chamber of the furnance; another to keep such a vessel on the stove in the apartment devoted to plants. And these pans of water should be so placed that they will evaporate several quarts per day. In addition to this, some persons adopt the following plan: Let the table for plants be as wide as the window-sill. Around the edge of this table fasten cleats about three inches wide, making a sort of sink or basin. Cover the whole of the wood work with two coats of paint. Put into this basin two inches sand, and cover the sand with one inch of fresh green moss. Set the pots on the top of this moss, slightly bedded in it. Any one can see that this will serve to diffuse moisture through the atmosphere, for the moss and sand will be saturated as often as the plants are watered. This is only one method of securing a healthy state of the air; let others be tried, which are practicable, for this is a very important matter. Of course the room should be ventilated as often as possible without injury to the plants from frost. Secondly, as to soil. Different plants require different kinds of soil, for their highest health and vigor, but for the majority, the following answers an excellent purpose: A compost of sand, leaf-mould, old manure, and earth from an old pasture, in equal parts, well mixed. Then, a few words as to watering, temperature, etc. It is a good rule to give water only when the ground is dry, and then to give it thoroughly, so that it will run through the ball of earth. No universal rule can be given, however. The African lilly, for example, needs water to saturation, while the cactus family need but little. Watch the foliage, and never allow it to flag. Examine the soil, and never allow it to become dry. Experience will teach when to water, by noting the sound of the pot when rapped with the knuckles, or by its weight when lifting it. Of course the leaves should be sprinkled as well as the soil. There is ordinarily more danger to our plants from heat than cold. As a general rule, sixty to seventy degrees by day, and forty-five to fifty degrees by night, is high enough. The exceptions to this must be learned by experience.

Too Much Land.

The desire to own a very large farm is natural, but often proves unwise in its results. When a man wishes to practise a mixed husbandry, and his present acres are too few and unsuitable, it is doubtless wise to annex more territory. Neighbor Jones has twenty acres of meadow land, which is suitable only for hay or grain or hoed crops. But as he finds a small dairy would be profitable, and sheep would bring in good returns, it would be advisable for him to buy several acres of rolling or hilly land adjoining. But, this accomplished, let him stop, and be careful to buy no more than he actually needs for his special purpose. For this new land will have to pay taxes, will have to be fenced, and may need other expenses laid out upon it. At any rate, it will add to his cares, and perhaps will bring in no adequate return. We know a farmer who, ten years ago, owned one hundred and fifty acres, and was doing very well; he now owns five hundred, and is worse off than before. And why? Because this large farm is a great bill of expense to him; he cannot afford to keep it up in good condition, and it hangs a millstone of care about his neck. His wife and children, both sons and daughters, are obliged to work hard to keep the great machine a-running. We presume his boys declare they will leave home as soon as they are old enough; and the girls say they will die before they will marry farmers. Neither sons nor daughters are educated as they deserve to be; they cannot be spared for this from work on the big farm. Now we declare that such a farm is a curse to its possessor and his family, and an injury to the whole agricultural interest. If that man wants to save himself and his household, he should sell at least one half of his land, improve the remainder to make it more productive, release his children from bondage, and try to make his home a place of comfort. He will live longer, lay up as good a property, and will train a more intelligent and a happier family.—*Exchange.*

High versus Low Stables.

It is a fault with most stables, that they are built for men rather than horses. We wish to point out two common errors into which not a few builders are liable to fall in constructing stables, especially those upon farms. The first is in having the doors and upper floor so low as they generally are. On account of these low doors horses instinctively learn to fear them, and they shy, rear, or prance whenever led toward them. They are also among the most frequent causes of poll evil. The horse, when passing through them, is either surprised by something it beholds outside of the building, or checked by the noise or gesture of the person leading him, when up goes the head, and crash comes the poll against the beam of the doorway. A violent bruise often results therefrom, and a deepseated abscess follows. Low hay-floors also produce the same trouble. The sudden elevation of the head is, in the horse, expressive of very unexpected emotion. This effect is always noticed whenever you enter the stable rapidly or at an unusual hour. A sudden noise will also occasion the same upward motion of the head. With low stables an injury to the horse is almost invariably sure to follow.—*Maine Farmer.*

Cooking Cauliflower.

Cut the heads before they become loose, and boil in water slightly salted—never with meat. When tender, which will usually be with twenty minutes cooking, take up and drain and cover with drawn butter (white sauce made with butter, flour, and water), and serve hot. They are usually eaten without other addition, but some dress with pepper and vinegar—the same as they do cabbage.

WIT AND WISDOM.

An Irish girl on Sunday was accosted by the priest: "Good morning, daughter of the devil." She meekly replied, "Good morning, father."

The Secretary of the Treasury has just made a statement of the public debt, showing a diminution of about a million per day for the last sixty days.

An exchange, describing a celebration, says: "The procession was very fine and nearly two miles in length, as was also the prayer of Dr. Perry, the chaplain.

A Western young lady while on her way to be married was run over and killed. A confirmed old maid savagely remarked, "She has avoided a more lingering and horrible destiny."

What makes you look so grum, Tom? "Oh, I had to endure a sad trial to my feelings." "What on earth was it?" "Why I had to tie on a pretty girl's bonnet while her ma was looking on."

An old gentleman who had spent all his life in statistics, says he never heard of but one woman who insured her life. He accounts for this by the singular fact of one of the questions being, "What is your age?"

The alderman who was lately injured by the accidental discharge of a duty, is reported to be in a fair way of recovery. He says he'll never be caught that way again while in the full possession of his senses.

A gentleman, speaking of the married state before his daughter, whom he wished to dissuade from matrimony, said, "She who marries does well—but she who does not marry does better." "Well, then," said the young lady, "I will do well; let those who choose do better."

Education is a companion which no misfortune can depress, no crime can destroy, no enemy can alienate, no despotism can enslave. At home, a friend; abroad, an introduction; in solitude, a solace; and in society an ornament. It chastens vice, it guides virtue, it gives at once grace and government to genius; without it, what is man? A splendid slave; a reasoning savage.

As one of the Dover (England) volunteers was passing along, rifle in hand, he was accosted by a precocious urchin, who called out: "Who shot the dog?" This saying our friend appeared by no means to relish. So, turning, he said, "If you are not off very soon, I'll shoot a donkey." Whereupon the boy called out to one of his companions, rejoined, "I say, Bill, look here—this fellow is going to commit suicide."

A juror's name was called by the clerk, and the man advanced to the judge's stand and said: "Judge, I should like to be excused!" "It is impossible," said the judge, decidedly. "But, judge, if you knew my reasons." "Well, sir, what are they?" "Sir, the fact is—," and the man hesitated. "Proceed," continued the judge. "Well, judge, if I must say it, I've got the itch." The judge being a very sedate one, turned to the clerk and said, "Clerk, *scratch* that man out."

Some time since a traveller stepped into a bank in the neighborhood of ——, and immediately after his entrance pulled off his hat, coat, and cravat; this done, he cast a look at the cashier, who was seated in a corner, "calm as a Summer morning," and with a commanding shake of his head said, "Sir, hadn't you better be getting the water heated?" The teller informed him that he was in the wrong "shop." "You're in a bank, sir, and not in a barber shop." "A bank, eh?" ejaculated the stranger, "dang me, they told me it was a shaving shop!"

HORSE AND RIDER.

In cross-country riding the horse that knows his work will always do it best with the least interference. When men talk of sparing their horse here, and making play there, they are simply usurping the credit of that judgment the horse himself will employ. You may choose the part of the fence you wish your horse to take, but he'll take himself in his own way far better than any suggestion of yours could intimate to him. The horse, too, will "take off" before his leap with far greater accuracy if left in a measure to himself; and in the measure of his stride, as he nears his fence, the animal will be guided by the amount of effort he is called on to make. I speak, of course, of a well-trained horse—a hunter; not those fiery, reckless animals that breast their walls and flounder into their double ditches, and to ride which is as hair brained a feat as a man can well perform. The great test of good riding is the "consent"—the spirit of union established between the horse and his rider—the intuitive knowledge of what your horse can do, being joined to your own power of conveying your wish to the animal. That attained, there is no more to be gained. This is not every man's gift, still rarer is it every woman's.—*Blackwood's Magazine.*

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Going North.—Elmira Mail at 4 P.M.; Erie Express at 7:38 A.M.
Going South.—Philadelphia Mail at 11 A.M.; New York Express at 4 P.M.
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March 22, 1866.

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On and after March 11, 1866, Passenger Trains will run as follows:
Southward.—Leave Scranton at 6:40 P.M. and 5:50 A.M.; Kingston at 6:55 P.M. and 6:05 A.M.; Bloomsburg at 8:20 P.M. and 8:20 A.M. Arrive at Northumberland at 10:30 P.M. and 10:35 A.M.
Northward.—Leave Northumberland at 7 A.M. and 5 P.M.; Bloomsburg at 8:25 A.M. and 6:25 P.M.; Scranton at 12:05 A.M. and 9 P.M. Arrive at Scranton at 12:40 A.M. and 10:15 P.M.
H. A. FONDA, Supt.
Kingston, March 15, 1866.

THE AMERICAN HAY KNIFE AND FORK.—We the undersigned citizens of Columbia County witnessed the trial of hay forks on the farm of Mr. Pursel, in Hemlock Township, on Monday, May 7, 1866, between the American Hay Knife and Fork manufactured by SLIFER, WALLS, SHRINER & Co., of Lewisburg, Pa., and the Rundel's Patent Hay Hook. The American Fork lifted more hay in one draught than the Rundel in three. We are satisfied it will take as much hay into the mow as two good horses can draw. We also saw it cutting hay, and think it cannot be beat as a hay knife, and cheerfully recommend it as the best hay fork and knife we have ever seen.

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A FORTNIGHTLY ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE.

THE GALAXY is published fortnightly, on the first and fifteenth of each month, and has the advantage of coming to the reader intermediately between the monthlies and the weeklies.
With the second number the Magazine was enlarged by sixteen pages, making it to contain ninety-six pages of matter.
ITS CONTRIBUTORS.
THE GALAXY will be an original American Magazine of the highest class. Arrangements have accordingly been made for regular contributions from the best known and most meritorious writers in the country; and moreover, the Editor will always seek to elicit and encourage contributions from new authors of real ability or decided promise. The articles in THE GALAXY will be signed with the names of their authors, who will be allowed a wide freedom in the expression of opinions.
The first and second numbers of THE GALAXY, for May first and fifteenth, 1866, contain contributions from John Esten Cooke, Frances Power Cobbe, Rose Terry, George Alfred Townsend, Edmund C. Stedman, the Author of "Ecarte Chesley," Professor Pierre Blot, Dr. W. H. Draper, Sullman S. Cohan, General Cluseret, and others. "The Claverings," by Anthony Trollope, and "Archie Lovell," by Mrs. Edwards, were commenced in the first number of THE GALAXY, and will continue to be published serially simultaneously with their appearance in England. The back numbers of the Magazine containing these stories may always be obtained from a newsdealer or from the proprietors.
PROFESSOR BLOT ON COOKERY.
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READING RAILROAD.
SUMMER ARRANGEMENT.
April 23, 1866.
Great Trunk Line from the North and Northwest for Philadelphia, New York, Reading, Pottsville, Tamaqua, Ashland, Lebanon, Allentown, Easton &c., &c.
Trains leave Harrisburg for New York as follows: At 3, 7:40, and 9:55 A.M., and 2 and 9:20 P.M., connecting with similar trains on the Pennsylvania Railroad, and arriving at New York at 5:40 and 10 A.M., and 7:40 and 10:35 P.M. Sleeping Cars accompany the 3 A.M. and 9:20 P.M. trains, without change.
Leave Harrisburg for Reading, Pottsville, Tamaqua, Minersville, Ashland, Pine Grove, Allentown, and Philadelphia at 7:40 A.M., and 2 and 9:20 P.M., stopping at Lebanon and principal Way Stations. The 9:20 P.M. train making no close connections for Pottsville or Philadelphia. For Pottsville, Schuylkill Haven, and Auburn, via Schuylkill and Susquehanna Railroad, leave Harrisburg at 4:15 P.M.
Returning, leave New York at 9 A.M., 12 M., and 5:30 P.M.; Philadelphia at 8 A.M. and 3:30 P.M.; Pottsville at 8:30 A.M. and 2:45 P.M.; Ashland at 6 and 11:15 A.M., and 1:05 P.M.; Tamaqua at 9:45 A.M. and 1 and 8:50 P.M.
Leave Pottsville for Harrisburg, via Schuylkill and Susquehanna Railroad, at 7 A.M.
Reading Accommodation Train leaves Reading at 6 A.M., returning from Philadelphia at 5 P.M.
Columbia Railroad Trains leave Reading at 6:20 and 11:30 A.M. for Columbia, Lancaster, &c., &c.
On Sundays leave New York at 8:30 P.M.; Philadelphia at 8 A.M. and 3:15 P.M., the 8 A.M. train running only to Reading; Pottsville at 8 A.M.; Tamaqua at 7:30 A.M.; Harrisburg at 9:05 A.M.; and Reading at 10:50 A.M. for Harrisburg, and 9:55 A.M. for New York, and 4:25 P.M. for Philadelphia.
Commutation, Mileage, Season, Excursion, and School Tickets at reduced rates to and from all points.
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G. A. NICOLLS, Gen. Supt.
Reading, Pa., April 23, 1866.

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