Only a Passing Thought.

'Twas only a passing thought, my friend,
Only a passing thought.
That came over my mind like a ray of the sun
In the ripple of waters caught;
And it seemed to me, as I say to thee,
That sorrow, and shame, and sin,
Might disappear from our happy sphere,
If we knew but to begin—
I we knew but how to profit
By wisdom dearly bought:
'Twas only a passing thought, my friend,
Only a passing thought.

Why should the nation fight, my friend,
Why should not warfare cease?
And all the world would repose
In innocence and peace.
It seems to me, as I say to thee,
The weak may yet be strong;
There needs but the love of breath and faith
To right the weary wrong—
To right the weary wrong, my friend,
Throughout the world mistaught;
'Twas only a passing thought, my friend,
Only a passing thought.

But though only a passing thought, my friend,
You know as well as I
That thoughts have a fashion to grow to deeds
Under the ripening sky.
Speak it on; let it walk or run,
Or fly on the wings of the wind,
Or, better still, on the wings of the Press,
For the service of mankind;
For the service of mankind, my friend,
That needs but to be taught:
'Twas only a passing thought, my friend,
Only a passing thought.

Farm, Garden and Household.

GRUB IN SHEEP. — Tobacco-smoke blown up the nostrils of the sheep has sometimes been effectual in dislodging the grubs; it is not often that sheep die with grubs, though they are often annoyed by them. To prevent them, keep the sheep's noses smeared with tar during the warm summer months, when the fly abounds.

LIME AND SALT MIXTURE.—"D. V. H.," Washington Co., Ill., asks how lime and salt should be mixed for applying to wheat, and when it should be applied. Slake the lime with a quantity of water in which salt has been dissolved until it can take up no more, sufficient to reduce the lime to a fine dry powder. Five or six bushels per acre of this mixture may be spread early in spring over the wheat. Its effect is generally to stiffen the straw.

CORN.—Nothing is more important in raising corn than to secure a "good start." It is half the race. A fine, mellow soil is of the first importance. The best way to secure this depends on circumstances. Every farmer must determine this matter for himself. As a rule, we seldom harrow the land sufficiently. Corn can not thrive among clods. Our own practice, when planted in hills, is to soak the corn from twelve to twenty-four hours in warm soft water, and dry it with plaster. By exercising due precautions, and coolies, the men naked except as to the loins, were toiling amid the stalks, laying them low with each blow of the sickle. At distances of a few rods, figures in broad-brimmed hats, sat silently on horseback, with their long-lashed whips lying crossed on the saddles before them. These were the drivers, and their business was to see that the slaves lagged not in their labor. The place we visited was called Santa Rosa. It belongs to a son of the late Senor Aldama, President of the Cuban Junta in New York, and is under seizure, and run by the government. An administrator appointed by the civil authorities is in charge, and occupies the fine mansion of the Aldamas with his own family. He is a Spaniard.

The administrator abandoned the breakfast-table when our party arrived, and after reading the letter of introduction politely offered to become our cicerone himself. Sugar making, though somewhat complicated in its various processes of grinding, boiling, refining, &c., is very simple in theory. The cane just cut on the plantation is carted to the grinding or mashing mill, through which it passes thoroughly pressed, the refuse being thrown out one way, while the juice runs into troughs, which convey it to the boiling-kettles. After going through the boiling operation the syrup is transferred to pans to cool and drain, and in time it hardens into sugar. It is ground to the pulverized state by another machine, and worked over by the laborers with hoes and scrapers before being finally put into hogsheads. The hoeing stage is not calculated to impress the visitor with a favorable idea of the cleanliness of his coffee sweetings. Negroes nearly naked and reeking with perspiration, trample over the sugar in their bare feet. "I know now," shrieked a lady of the party "Where the toe nails come from which we find in our brown sugar at home." Alas! it is too true. But then how unhappy we would all be if we knew exactly how everything we eat is prepared, and is it not better that we shut our eyes to the stern facts and accept the legendary "peck" without a murmur. There are about five hundred hands employed on the Aldama estate. 20 per cent. of them being coolies. They are worked sixteen hours per day during the gathering and grinding season. Sunday is a partial holiday. The finer work in the mill is done by the Chinamen. A Boston engineer has charge of the machinery, and there is another foreigner in the same department, an Englishman. The machinery is new and costly, and has the imprint of English and American makers.

AN EAGLE ATTEMPTS TO KIDNAP A CHILD.—Jacob Decker living near Rhode Lake, N. Y., has a little daughter about three years of age. One day while she was playing in the yard, her shouts attracted her mother. Going out Mrs. Decker found a large eagle attempting to carry off the little one. Almost frantic with fright, she seized the child and rushed toward the hou e. No sooner had she caught the child in her arms than the eagle showed fight. It followed Mrs. Decker, pecking savagely at the child, several times touching her hair with its beak; but by running rapidly and shielding the child as best she could, she managed to reach the house in safety. Enraged at being thus cheated of its prey, the eagle flew against the door and beat furiously at the windows, as if determined to effect an entrance, until Mrs. Decker, fearing it might break in, hid her child in a closet for greater security. At night the bird flew away. Early the next morning the eagle again made its appearance. After flying wildly around, it perched upon a tree hard by the house, apparently awaiting an opportunity to renew the attack. As soon as she discovered the bird, Mrs. Decker notified the neighbors, and it was shot. It proved to be an American eagle, measuring seven feet between the tips of its wings.

AN ANCIENT RIDDLE.—The multiplication table can scarcely be said to be a fountain whence poetic inspiration can be drawn. Yet the thing was done one hundred and sixty odd years ago, in a publication called *Ladies' Diary*, in which a mathematician "drops into poetry" in this style:

When first the marriage knot was tied
Between my wife and me,
My age did hers as far exceed
As three times three does three.

In the year (1709) following the publication of this verse a solution of the sum, by a lady, was made as follows:

When first the solemn knot was tied
Your wife was just fifteen;
You by proportion forty-five,
Which is as three to nine.
But when your hoary head arrived
To ten and half ten more,
Your youthful bride saw thirty years,
And you could tell threescore.
Thus have I told, without delay,
What was your age o' th' marriage-day.

ANGRY ABOUT IT.—After long years of persistent persecution, the editor of the Indianapolis *Evening Journal* thus gives vent to his pent-up feelings: "Nothing so infuriates an editor—we speak from experience—as to have a great, loose-jointed galoot stride noiselessly into his sanctum, pick up a paper, rustle it for a moment, and then slam it down, creating an atmospheric concussion which scatters two hundred and seventy of his small clippings—the gleanings from seven hundred and forty exchanges—into the spittoon and waste-basket. The editor who can keep his brows from corrugating, and repress the convulsive contraction of his biceps, at such a time, is a spiritless milksop, whom it were base flattery to call a sheep."

HINTS FOR THE SEASON.

Sod Land can be plowed after a soaking rain earlier than fall-plowed or stubbles. And a steel plow will make a clean furrow slice where a cast-iron plow will clog. But it is doubtful whether it is or is not advisable to avail ourselves of these facts. Sod land is just as wet as the stubble land, and if one would be injured by plowing, it is not easy to understand why the sod land would not be injured also. It is one of those points, however, on which we need more light.

Oats can be sown on a great range of soils, from a black muck to the heaviest clays. Of all the small grains they will stand the greatest neglect, but well repay good cultivation. They are sown on new-plowed sod land, and occasionally do well enough to induce farmers to continue the practice, notwithstanding the fact that in nine cases out of ten the result is anything but satisfactory. Better plant corn on the sod land, and sow oats after the corn.

Peas in many sections are so much affected by the pea-beetle, or what is improperly called "the bug," that their culture is almost entirely abandoned. There is at present no known remedy. Getting seed entirely free from bugs, or dipping the seed for a moment in boiling water, are popular remedies, but are not based on any satisfactory reason. Late sowing is to a certain extent a remedy, but the crop is almost invariably a poor one. Better sow as early as possible, and try to raise a great crop, and feed out the crop to pigs before the bug eats out much of the substance of the peas.

Potatoes do much better on a rich clover sod than on rich stubble land. It is time we paid more attention to enriching the soil for this crop. The labor of digging an acre yielding only 90 bushels, is nearly or quite as great as digging an acre that will yield 250 bushels, and if the soil is in good condition, the latter yield can be safely calculated on, with a good variety, and good cultivation. Manure, if thoroughly rotted and well worked into the soil, does not increase the disease. Planting in hills three feet apart each way, saves seed and labor in planting, hoeing, and digging, and where land is cheap, is undoubtedly the better plan; but planting in drills, three feet one way, and sets dropped from 12 to 15 inches in the row, will, provided the land is rich enough, produce a greater crop per acre.

Clover seed on winter wheat should be sown already. But we have sown it as late as the middle of May, and had a good crop. Much depends on the season and the condition of the land. We prefer to delay sowing until the ground is dry enough to harrow.

Grass and clover seeds should not be covered more than half an inch deep. Far more seed is lost from covering too deep than from being left wholly exposed to the surface. A fine, mellow soil is the great essential condition.

The roller is not as much used as it should be in the spring, though it is sometimes used where it does more harm than good. It is easier to break clods when wet than when dry, but if you can break them when dry, the pulverizing effect is far greater. Clayey land rolled when wet, forms a hard crust.

Horses, after their winter's rest, should be worked only moderately at first. Look to their shoulders, and wash them frequently with cold water.

Working oxen should be well carded every day, and be liberally fed. They have a much larger stomach than a horse, and do not need as concentrated food, but they require more time to eat.

Cows can hardly secure enough green grass for their support yet, and he is a fortunate farmer who has plenty of mangolds for them. But bran and good hay, with a good carding every day, to keep open the pores, will keep a milch cow in good condition, and prepare her for giving a large mess of milk when grass comes.

Raise your own calves, and let them have good care, nutritious food, and plenty of it, with the kindest treatment. Cows will be high again in a year or two. Good cows are always scarce.

Poultry.—Clean the house, sprinkle with crude carbolic acid and water. Carbolic soap, rubbed on to the roots, finds its way to the feathers, and kills the lice.

Sheep, like cows, in the northern latitudes, will hardly find grass enough yet. Nothing is better for sheep than clover hay. Let the breeding ewes have all they can eat. And those with a lamb at their side should have a pound of bran each per day, in addition, and a few roots, if they can be spared. Make a small pen in the yard, with slats about ten inches apart, or just wide enough to allow the lambs to go through, and put in a few small troughs, and keep the lambs supplied with oats, corn-meal, bran, and sliced roots. This is one secret of raising good lambs.

Pigs.—Last fall's pigs should have a liberal allowance of corn-meal and mangolds, to keep them growing rapidly till they can get clover.

Clean out the Cellar.—As health is the greatest of earthly blessings, cleaning the cellar from all decaying vegetables, and other impurities, is the most important work to be done now.

Whitewash the cellar walls, pig-pens, sheep-sheds, horse and cow stables.

A Sugar Plantation.

A party of Americans in Cuba, visited a sugar plantation. One of the party says: A turn in the road suddenly brought us in view of the cane field with the hands at work. Men, women, and children, negroes, and coolies, the men naked except as to the loins, were toiling amid the stalks, laying them low with each blow of the sickle. At distances of a few rods, figures in broad-brimmed hats, sat silently on horseback, with their long-lashed whips lying crossed on the saddles before them. These were the drivers, and their business was to see that the slaves lagged not in their labor. The place we visited was called Santa Rosa. It belongs to a son of the late Senor Aldama, President of the Cuban Junta in New York, and is under seizure, and run by the government. An administrator appointed by the civil authorities is in charge, and occupies the fine mansion of the Aldamas with his own family. He is a Spaniard.

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Items of Interest.

A cow has died of hydrophobia in Maysville, Ky.

ONE planter sold in Petersburg, Va., 500 bales of cotton.

FOUR thousand men are engaged in this country in the production of steel.

CLERGYMEN must take out a license under the peculiar license law of South Carolina.

AT the Yarmouth mills, in Maine, brown paper is made from spruce logs in twenty-four hours.

ANDREW JOHNSON'S claim for income tax paid on his salary as President amounts to $4,694.66.

A. T. STEWART, of New York, says he will build the handsomest theater in the world on the Niblo site.

A CHURCH in Derby, Conn., has had nine pastors within eighteen years. It is not a Methodist church.

THERE has been great and unsual mortality throughout the burnt district of Wisconsin during the winter and spring.

PRESIDENT GRANT is expected to be present at the reunion of the Army of the Tennessee in Madison, Wis., July 4.

THE proposed constitution for West Virginia, makes persons in the employ of railroads ineligible to the State Legislature.

IT is rumored in London that several of the Kurile Islands in the North Pacific are to be leased to the United States.

A PROMINENT business man in Milwaukee, Wis., has discovered that he is one of Anneke Jans's heirs, and he wants $3,000,000.

ONE hundred and fifty merino sheep, valued at $15,000 were shipped from Nashville, Tenn., via St. Louis, for San Francisco.

MAN-MILLINER Worth is said to have his hands so full of American customers that he has only a hand-full of French clients left.

SMALL POX seems to be once more gaining ground in New York city, and the vaccination corps have again been ordered on duty.

THE latest strike in Great Britain that has attracted public attention has been a strike of the servant girls in Dundee for higher wages.

CHICAGO recently shipped 1,930,114 bushels of grain in three days, which is doing pretty well for a city that was destroyed last October.

THE local Option Liquor bill was lost in the Upper House of the New York Legislature, not receiving the vote of a majority of the Senate.

HIS Majesty of Denmark is reported to have offered a prize of $1,000 for the best history of the United States since the close of the civil war.

A SAN FRANCISCO woman recently applied for a divorce on the ground that her husband had been for four years addicted to using opium.

Two farmers in Michigan quarreled about a sheep a day or two ago, and one of them stabbed the other with a jack-knife, inflicting a mortal wound.

CALIFORNIA papers speak enthusiastically of the growing crops. At least double the average production is expected from the agricultural regions this year.

IN Arlington, Vt., dogs have destroyed seventy-five ewes, valued at $400, belonging to one farmer alone, and many flocks have been scattered and driven to the mountains.

THE total number of hogs packed in the West during the past season was 4,782,413, an increase of 1,159,413, over the previous year. The cost of the hogs was $65,800,000.

JAMAICA is becoming a perfect asylum for American invalids. Every vessel brings numbers to the island; not even the prospect of a summer in the tropics deterring them.

NEARLY every farm in Western Oneida county, N. Y., affords bright clear springs and fine streams for trout, and there is nothing to prevent every farmer from engaging in fish culture.

ENGLISH law compels a married woman if she has money or the means of making it and her lord has none, to support him, be he ever so worthless, that the expense of his keeping may not come upon the parish.

THE Washington *Chronicle* says that a resident of New York city applied a day or two since for the interest on $200,000 worth of bonds, on which interest ceased to accumulate on the 1st of December last.

GOV. PARKER, of New Jersey, has issued a proclamation on the fishing question, claiming jurisdiction over that part of the Delaware River between the States of Delaware and New Jersey, which is easterly on the middle line of said river.

A DETROIT man had just painted his house black, his doors a bright red, and the window-sash a sky-blue. The picket fence is to be red, white and blue, and then he expects to have a place that will attract attention.

GREAT excitement prevails among steamboat men at Milwaukee, Wis. The boats of nearly all the lines have been stopped by the United States Supervising Inspectors, thus making a complete blockade in the freight business.

THE first sensations in the ball-field were the defeat of the Bostons by the Athletics of Philadelhhia, by a score of 10 to 7; and the defeat of the Baltimore nine by the Mutuals of this city, after playing ten innings, by a score of 11 to 9.

MELBOURNE has suffered severely from enormous floods. Four hundred people have been drowned. Added to this fearful loss of life, great destitution is looked forward to by the citizens, as the growing crops have been almost destroyed.

THE master of the schooner Oliver Bridge reported: 150 miles from Cape Ann, fell in with and boarded a schooner from Yarmouth, almost under water, with both masts lying across the deck. The dead bodies of two men were found in the cabin.

THE Rev. E. P. Wadham, for the past 22 years a priest in Albany diocese, was consecrated Bishop of Ogdensburg, of the Roman Catholic Cathedral, Albany, by Archbishop McCloskey of New York, assisted by several other bishops from various sections of the country.

A DISPATCH from Holden, Mo., says: "There is the best assurance for saying that, if the Sheriff of Cass County fails to perform his duty, the United States authorities will arrest the assassins of Stephenson, Cline, and Dubrol, in the face of Gov. Brown's proclamation.

ADVICES from Zanzibar have been received. This island had been visited by a terrible hurricane. One hundred and fifty vessels of all classes were sunk or stranded on the coast. The town of Zanzibar was very badly damaged, and the losses was estimated at $10,000,000.

CATERPILLARS stopped railroad trains at various points near Memphis by lying on the track in vast numbers. The woods on the river banks opposite that city are literally stripped clean of their recent green foliage, and the same condition is reported of other localities in that section.

THE St. Paul (Minn.) *Press* says that notwithstanding the fact that the stream of immigration has commenced pouring into the State at an earlier date than was ever before known, the demand for skilled labor is not more than half supplied, and many are complaining of their inability to secure help when it is most urgently needed.

A LETTER from Mr. Wendell Philips was read at the meeting of the Reform League in New York, in which the eloquent agitator expressed prophetically that the coming campaign would be the last in which the Democratic and Republican parties, as such, would engage. "Whichever party succeeds," he says, "both die in the effort."

THE experiment of causing the engines to play upon a disorderly mob in order to disperse it was not very successful when tried last week in a town of South Russia. The people resented the insult by attacking the police and demolishing the fire station. The troops were then called out and were stoned, whereupon some of the citizens were shot and the rest decamped.

OUR FOREIGN LETTER.

Climbing the Mountain of Rhigi—Sunset and Sunrise as Seen From the Summit —A Swiss Locomotive—Lake of Como, etc., etc.

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon we took the boat for Weggis, where we arrived in half an hour. We found horses and guides waiting for us, and mounting our steeds, started off for the ascent of the Rhigi. The sun was fearfully hot as we drew near the top, but apart from the heat, the day was delightful, and the view grew more charming every moment. The path was well made, about five feet in width, graveled, and where it was requisite, protected by a hand rail. First we went through orchards, and after leaving them began to climb up the mountain. Sometimes across meadows, then again across the face of the rocks, down which came streams of water; sometimes under the cliffs of conglomerate pudding stone; once through a natural archway or tunnel formed by two enormous masses of stone, under whose friendly shelter "the best of her sex" and myself were glad to seek refuge for a few moments from the heat of the sun. But, as the longest lane has a turning, so the highest mountain has a top, and in company with a crowd of equestrians and pedestrians, we rode up to the door of the Hotel du Rhigi-Koulm, thoroughly tired out and exhausted with our ride. After getting off our gallant steed, we felt as though we would be obliged to take our meals off of a mantlepiece, standing, for several days, our equestrian exercise not agreeing with us. To use the language of A. Ward, horseback riding up a side hill "is not our forte." We found our telegram sent the day previous had been received, and our room was ready for us. After taking a survey of our quarters for the night, we walked to the brow of the mountain to view the scenery. The summit was covered with people, all attracted by one common object—to view the setting sun. The view is said to embrace a circuit of nearly three hundred miles. It is said that eleven lakes can be seen from the top of Rhigi, but we were only able to count nine. The Lake of the Four Cantons is so close to the foot of the mountain we were on, that it seemed as if a stone might be thrown into it without any exertion. Just as the sun was going down, an indifferent performer on the Alpine horn, an instrument about seven feet long, awoke the echoes, and sorely tried the temper of his hearers by his ill-timed and unmusical exertions. The evening was comparatively clear, and it afforded us an excellent view of a perfectly clear horizon and a most magnificent panorama. Mountains were to be seen on every hand. Snow-clad summits, each with its name and history, and at our feet, apparently, were towns, villages and lakes, although they were in reality many miles away from us. After the sun had set for us, we could yet see it lighting up the snow-capped tops of some of the loftiest mountains of the Alps. Gradually it became darker and darker, the mist commenced rolling up from the valley, and as the air became damp and chilly, we all returned to the hotel to partake of the supper for which all had excellent appetites. We retired early, so as to get all the rest possible, as we would be obliged to be up by 3:30 A. M. to see the sun rise. There was a notice in the room requesting the guests "not to take the blankets off the bed when going out to see the sun rise."

Half an hour before sunrise (3 A. M.) we were awakened by the sound of the Alpine horn, which was blown by the performer of the previous evening, through all the hallways of the hotel. At the first sound of it we were up and dressed in a few moments, and were out on the summit long before many of the disciples of Zoroaster were out of bed. All was noise, bustle and confusion. Time, represented by the sun, waits for no man, and that fact being patent to every one in the hotel, the result was that some very singular toilettes were to be seen, the principal costume of the ladies being waterproof cloaks, that covered a multitude of shortcomings in the toilette. Many stood, watch in hand, waiting for the first appearance of the great luminary. They reminded me of the story of the countryman who had just purchased a watch, and was waiting, as we were, to see the sun rise. After looking at his watch a few moments and then turning his gaze to the east, he remarked to a friend who stood near him, "Wall, if the sun is not up in five minutes, he's late." He evidently had more faith in that watch than he had in the sun itself. As we stood waiting, the crowd kept coming out of the hotel, and many were seen struggling up the hill who had been obliged to sleep at the hotel further down the mountain side, not being able to procure accommodations at the Rhigi-Koulm. For the time being, the great hotel was without a guest. We should judge there were about three hundred persons on the summit at sunrise. Just as the first faint streak of light in the east proclaimed the birth of another day, a party of Swiss peasants, male and female, commenced singing a hymn which sounded very sweetly. As the sun rose higher, the horizon began to redden, over the eastern range of mountains, and then the dawn stole on in such a succession of deepening tints that nothing but the hues of the preceding sunset could be compared to it. But there is this great difference between sunrise and sunset, that the hues of sunset are every moment deepening as you look upon them, until they fade into darkness, while those of the sunrise gradually fade into the light of day. It is difficult to say which is the most beautiful. The object most conspicuous as the dawn broke, and indeed the most exquisitely beautiful, was the vast, enormous range of snowy mountains of the Oberland, standing out sharp and clear upon the horizon, undimmed by cloud or mist, the Finsteraarhorn at the left and the Jungfrau and Silberhorn at the right, peak after peak and mass after mass glittering with an arctic whiteness in the gray dawn. One-half of the circumference of the horizon, before and behind our view, was filled with these peaks and masses of snow and ice, then lower down the masses of bare rock, and lower still the earth with mounds of verdure. It is on this section of the horizon, which is filled with the vast range of the Oberland Alps, then almost due west from the sun's first appearance, it is on their tops that the rising rays first strike. As the sun rose higher and higher, the forests, lakes, hills, towns and villages began to reveal themselves. At last the sun suddenly burst forth from behind the mountains in all its majesty, flooding the whole of the superb landscape with light and warmth. We took another view of the lovely panorama before us and then returned to the hotel to breakfast.

At 7 o'clock we mounted our horses and slowly and carefully made our way down the mountain to the railroad depot, which is situated nearly a mile below the hotel. We purchased tickets to Vitznau, which is the terminus of the road, and after waiting until time was up, commenced the descent of the mountain. The engine which drew the car in which we were seated looked like a huge iron bottle, standing on a low platform, which carries cylinders, cranks and other locomotive gear, and is much lower at one end than at the other. This difference of height imparts an awkward-ness of appearance, and the immense bottle, which is, in fact, the boiler and chimney, leans to one side, as if about to fall. When the engine ascends the mountain, the floor becomes level and the boiler is on the perpendicular. In front of the boiler is a railed place, in which baggage is carried. The engineer and fireman stand, as usual, in the rear, and the fuel is coal. The car we were in was about ten feet wide, with nine seats placed transversely, and when filled would hold about sixty passengers, who find their comfort cared for in the shape of the seats. The car is open on all sides, something like the Third avenue excursion cars in New York, which enabled us to have an excellent view of the scenery. The cars and locomotives are built at Olten, a busy centre of Swiss industry. The railway guage is five feet; the sleepers are longitudinal and continuous, as on our city railway tracks. Between the two rails is what may be termed a heavy iron ladder, with thick steps. On this ladder the locomotive walks, by means of a heavy cogged wheel, fitted beneath the floor of it. There are no trains, unless a single car and engine can be called one. In ascending the road, the engine is behind the car and pushes it, instead of pulling it up hill. Passengers who are nervous had better sit in the middle of the car, so as to avoid the sight of the gulfs and precipices over which the railway passes. The finest view either ascending or descending is on the right hand side. The speed is about twice as fast as ordinary walking. As soon as we left the depot, a signal man started off ahead of the engine with a red flag in his hand and a bugle swung at his side, and ran before of us all the way to Vitznau. His principal business is to see that no obstructions have fallen from the upper slopes on the track, and especially to pick out any stones that may have fallen on the steps of the iron ladder or cog-way. Travelers who have been up Mount Righi know that it is a mass of pudding, with millions of stones for plums. Hence, constant watchfulness is necessary, for a stone in the cog-way might probably throw the engine from the track. We noticed way-watchers at short distances apart, whose duty it was to see the track was in good order, and each of whom is responsible for his section of the road. As an additional precaution against accident, each car is fitted with an exceedingly strong brake. The line stretches in one continuous slope up the mountain, with but slight departures from a straight line, and is very similar to the one on Mount Washington in the White Mountains. There are no zig-zags, as on the road over Mount Cenis. Half way down the mountain the engine stopped at a water tank to take in water. We then slowly but surely descended, and in a short time were at the end of the road. About 10 A. M. the steamboat stopped at the wharf on its way from Luzerne to Fluelen, to which place we purchased tickets after getting on board.

The Lake of the Four Cantons is one of the most beautiful of the Swiss lakes, and the sail on it was one of great enjoyment. After leaving Vitznau, the mountains, with few exceptions, came sheer down to the water's edge, as on the Lake of Como. The length of the lake is about twenty-five miles, and is distinguished above every lake in Switzerland, perhaps in Europe, by the beauty of its scenery. It is hardly less interesting from the historical recollections connected with it. Its shores are to all Americans, classic ground—the sanctuary of liberty. On them took place those memorable events which gave freedom to Switzerland. Here the first confederacy was formed; and, above all, its borders were the scene of the heroic deeds and signal vengeance of William Tell. B. M.

Intelligence of Cows.

An agricultural writer remarks that while traveling in Italy, several years ago, he happened to stop at a farm-house one afternoon, when the cows were about to be milked. He speaks as follows of the intelligence of cows: "A herd of over one hundred were grazing homeward. The women took their position with stools and pails close to the house, and as the cows approached names were called out, which at first we thought addressed to the milkmaids. Rosa, Florenza, Giulia, Sposa, and many names which were not noted by us at the time, were called out by the overseer or one of the women, and the writer was astonished to see cow after cow cease feeding or chewing the cud, and make direct, sometimes at trot, for the woman that usually milked. The practice, we found, was not confined to one farm; all the cows on each farm knew their respective names, and took up their positions in the open fields just as readily as the individual members of some large herds in this country, turning from the fields, take up their places in the sheds."

The Poughkeepsie *Press*, speaking of this same subject—the intelligence of cows—says: "One of our farmer subscribers recently purchased an excellent cow and put her in the yard with others. His help went out at night to milk, as usual, and set down before one of the other cows. No sooner, however, had he done so than the new comer made for him and drove him from his seat, nor would she let him proceed with the milking. The proprietor's attention was called to the strange conduct of his new purchase, whom his man considered dangerous. Mr. P. went into the yard and began to soothe the animal with gentle handling, and then sat down to milk her, when he found her as meek as a lamb. After that she was perfectly satisfied if she was milked first, but no one must presume to slight her in this respect. She holds literally in her own case, to the scriptural mention, "that the last shall be first."

AN UNPROFITABLE BOARDER. — The Weldon (N.C.) *News* says:—A most marvelous feat of eating, and one that seems almost incredible, but which is vouched for by a dozen witnesses, occurred in this place, a few night's since. One Tom Weaver, colored, a rather small man, and seemingly of ordinary eating capacities, was induced to eat a good "square meal" at Noah Hicks', some other party agreeing to pay seventy-five cents for as much as he could eat. The following amount of eatables were actually devoured by him, and, upon a wager, will be eaten again at any time, an hour and a half being occupied in the arduous duty. "Twenty-four pounds of ham, two pounds of sausages, one pound of butter, fifty two bu cuits, twenty-one cups of coffee, one pound of roast meat, three and a half dozen eggs, one quart of oysters, and taking six drinks of whiskey, and one quart of cider in the meantime, and immediately afterward eating an ordinary snack obtained elsewhere,

INEXPENSIVE ORNAMENTS.—There is no ornament inside or out of our house so cheap and tasteful as plants and flowers. Few pause to regard the architecture of your rooms or your house, but the beauty of flowery shrubs, or the living arabesque of a thrifty creeper over your door, are lessons of taste and beauty. Indeed, suburban residences are sadly deficient without these simple yet beautiful accessories, always within the reach of taste and refinement, no matter how empty the purse. As the real necessities of life require the least expenditure of time and money, so the objects which tend truly to satisfy the love of the beautiful in nature, are within the reach of our humblest children.—*Missouri Democrat.*

DANGEROUS.—It is dangerous for a wooer who is not exactly in earnest to brag of his property. The English newspapers tell of a farmer at Leeds, who, not long ago, was mulcted in the sum of £400 for not marrying a young woman after he had promised to do so. His attorney, seeking for a reduction of damages in the Common Pleas, declared that £400 was more than all the property the defendant had in the world. But, unfortunately, it had appeared in evidence that the farmer, while paying his courts to the plaintiff, had told her that he was worth £2,000. This admission did not help his case at all; and all lovers who are not sure of keeping their word are warned to be careful how they boast about their property.

A Pulaski bride for several days recently was the subject of constant attacks from an unseen foe. Whenever she was in the vicinity of a window or near the door, stones flung by invisible hands would come crashing through the glass, or the door would open and a rock fly in. She was wounded severely by these mysterious missives in various parts of the body, and finally each attack would throw her into convulsions. Her persecutor is supposed to be a young man of that city whom she jilted.

A Philadelphia editor, who exclaims against people calling on him who have nothing to do and nothing to say, and think that he has nothing to write, and are fond of nothingness in general, puts the following in the front page: "We have rented an office in the top of the shot tower, and have planted torpedoes and spring-guns all the way up the stairs."

UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

SENATE.

Mr. Trumbull offered the Amnesty bill, but it was rejected, by a vote of 23 to 22. Mr. Sumner called up his Civil Rights bill as an amendment, which was also again rejected. The Election bill passed by a vote of 36 to 17.

The Senate passed the Baltimore and Potomac Depot bill after rejecting several amendments which were offered to it. Various bills were reported by the Committees on Indian Affairs and on Public Lands. A resolution to erect an equestrian statue to the late Gen. Rawlins was also reported.

The Senate discussed at length the report of the conference committee on the Deficiency bill, and passed it by a vote of 35 to 34.

HOUSE.

The House passed the Fortification bill, Mr. Niblack showing that the harbors of the country were many of them in an almost defenceless condition. The bill provides for an appropriation of $1,985,000 altogether, variously distributed.

An amendment of Butler's, removing political disabilities from all who participated in the rebellion, except the members of the Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh Congresses, officers in the judicial, military, and navy services, heads of departments, and foreign ministers, was passed.

To a question of Mr. Roosevelt as to whether he would support Mr. Greeley in the event of his indorsement by the Baltimore Convention, Mr. Voorhees who was addressing the House at the time replied that he was not the habit of voting against Democratic nominations and would stand by the man who represented the principles of the Democratic party.

In the House the Tariff bill was discussed. The article of quinine was set down for a ten per cent. tax. The book and paper question next came up, and the duty was placed at twelve and a half cents per pound, with some exceptions, which go on the free list. An effort to have the House adjourn until the last Thursday in November, was decided out of order, and the House determined to adjourn sine die on the 3d of June.

The mission to the Central American states being retained by the Senate appropriation bill, Mr. Brooks and others objected to it, and it was rejected.

A resolution offered by Mr. Beck, making one third of the customs duties receivable in legal tender notes, was passed. Quinine was placed on the free list.

Cattle in Texas.

Cattle-raising in Texas is characterized by features peculiar to that State. The business is principally in the hands of comparatively a few men, who conduct their operations on a scale of great magnitude. In 1860 10,000 head of cattle constituted a large stock; now 25,000 and 30 000 are not uncommonly owned by one man, while in the brands of some individuals are included as many as 50,000 and 60,000. It is said that an unassuming Irishman named T. O'Conner, living in Refugio county, is the largest cattle-owner in Texas. He does not know precisely how many he owns, but his stock is estimated at about 60,000. In Texas when a calf is weaned from its dam and cannot be identified as the property of anybody, it becomes the chattel of whoever first brands it. This gives a great advantage to the large owners, as small stock raisers are not able to employ the necessary labor to keep their stock branded up, and what they lose usually becomes incorporated in the herds of wealthier men. During the war, when nearly all the able-bodied men in the State were in the army, the wealthy stock owners employed Mexican vaqueros, who were exempt from the draft, to look after their herds, while the cattle belonging to poor men strayed wherever they liked. The consequence was that the small stocks became to a great extent absorbed in the larger ones. Over one million cattle were shipped or driven from Texas during the past year, but the trade is in a very depressed condition now. Owing to the low rates paid in the Northern markets, a great proportion of the droves started last year have been held over and wintered in Kansas, waiting improvement in prices. Several million dollars' worth of cattle, it is estimated, have been driven over the line into Mexico by organized bands of thieves.

NEW YORK DRY GOODS MARKET.

The New York Dry Goods Market continues without important change, though the retail demand has somewhat improved since our previous review. Many houses are left with good stocks on hand, especially in cottons, and a falling off in prices is anticipated.

Woolen goods market remains quiet, slow of sale and nominal.

Brown sheetings and shirtings are in light request.

A reduction is noticed of 2½c. per yard on Pepperell wide goods.

In bleached sheetings and shirtings the demand is restricted to the limited requirements.

Stripes and ticks are without especial animation. Prices remain firm.

Printing cloths are firm at 7¾c. for 64x64's on the spot.

In prints, the market lacks buoyancy. "Dolly Varden" styles are in good demand.

Thin dress goods are active.

Fine silks for summer wear are in active demand.

Linens are dull.

White goods are in request. Other goods are strong.

BRAIN STIMULANTS.—Human beings are the only ones that crave and contract a love for stimulants. It is hardly possible to make any animal take spirits of any kind. If compelled to do so, a morbid appetite for it is not developed as in man. However thirsty, they will resist the finest artificial drinks. Water is the only fluid which they demand, and fond as some of them may be of milk, water is with them a positive necessity. Brain excitement—something that quickens the nervous system—has always been found with every race of people. If they have no ingenuity in any way that betters their condition physically, they have a way of exhilirating themselves. They ferment the juice of fruits, the sap of plants, make teas of an intoxicating quality, or lastly, like the Tartars on the borders of the Caspian Sea, who have no vegetables that meet that morbid demand, make themselves mere savages by acidified mare's milk. It is a marvel in the constitution of humanity that this propensity for excitement by artificial means should be so general all over the world. Civilization does not overcome it; laws only hold it slightly in check; moral suasion is a feeble instrumentality and the question mooted is—what is the next move to be?

The Magazines.

THE AMERICAN ODD FELLOW for May has several beautifully illustrated articles; stories and sketches; a racy account of an Odd Fellow's travels in Ireland; Humors of the Day; Choice Poetry; Pictorial description of Mount Vernon; Departments for the home circle and Daughters of Rebekah; Scientific and Curious Facts; Agricultural and State Departments; all the news of the Order, &c., &c. This publication has a greater variety of first-class miscellaneous reading than any other magazine published. $2.50 a year, including a superb premium picture. Address A. O. F. Association, No. 87 Park Row, New York.

No RAILROAD COMPANY in the Country is making stronger efforts to keep up with the wants of the traveling public, than the Eastern, which in connection with other prominent lines forms a through channel of travel from Boston through Maine and the provinces. The road is supplied with the handsomest parlor and sleeping coaches and no efforts are spared to make travelers comfortable and happy on the line. The Eastern takes passengers from Boston to Bangor without change of cars. COL. GEORGE F. FIELD, the Gen. Passenger Agent of the Company, No. 134 Washington St., Boston, will be pleased to give travelers all desired information about lines and routes.

A well-to-do farmer in Peabody, Mass, had a daughter die of consumption recently, and to save expense dug the grave himself; and, after the funeral service at the house, placed his hoe and shovel in the hearse, and when the coffin was deposited, took his tools and filled the grave.

The Duluth *Herald* apologizes for having advised a married man to get married. It thought he was a widower.

We clip the following from the Troy (N. Y.) *Whig:*

Some three months since Dr. R. V. Pierce of Buffalo, N. Y., commenced advertising in the *Whig*, an article called "Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy." We believed at that time it was one of the many catch penny arrangements to swindle people out of their money, but during the past few weeks have become convinced to the contrary. We know of several prominent citizens who have suffered from that loathsome disease "Catarrh," and they pronounce Dr. Sage's Remedy no humbug, and in several instances have been entirely cured. We desire to give Dr. Pierce the benefit of the same.—598.

CRIMINAL SECRECY.—The martinets o the medical