LILAC.

I can not tell why lilac flowers
Should bring me such strange dreams.
Within their scented purple buds
A witchcraft fancy gleams.

They pictured languid Persian girls—
Star-Eyes and Rose-in-Bloom—
The jewel-clusters gathering
In Orient garden-gloom.

Then from that far and fragrant land
My fitful vision ran,
And kissed beneath a cozy porch
A nun-like Puritan.

Ah, lilac, in your pretty art
You bring me of the best—
The glowing sweetness of the East,
The pure and tender West!

Sebastopol as It Is.

Sebastopol is only just beginning to emerge from the despondency of the last twenty years. The docks are still a wilderness overgrown with grass and weeds, with old guns and anchors imbedded in the earth, showing that the work of destruction was well carried out by the allies. Fresh docks and arsenals, meanwhile, have been erected at Kertch and Nicolaieff; and no attempt has until quite lately been made to develop the commercial resources of Sebastopol. In many places you may pass through streets silent and desolate as the streets of Pompeii; houses shattered partly by bombardment, partly by the destruction wrought by the Russians when abandoning the place, principally perhaps by the want of firewood felt by the allies during the occupation of the Winter 1855-56. Add to this that the sun beats down upon the arid rock with frightful force, that there are scarcely any trees to relieve the eye, and that the dust is at least ankle-deep in all the streets and squares, and it follows that Sebastopol is scarcely more desirable as a place of residence in the Summer than in the Winter. There are, however, not wanting signs of life and improvement. The old barracks at the head of the harbor, between that and the dockyard creek, still stand up against the sky-line a ghastly row of empty windows and roofless walls four stories high, but there are new barracks further North, between the old locks and the roadstead, where a large garrison is now accommodated. A railway station is now open at the head of the harbor, from which you can go direct in three days and two nights to Moscow. Fresh houses have been built during the last two years, and more are building. Churches are springing up again with all the glittering ornament that marks the Russian style of architecture. The high ridge in the centre of the town, from whence, according to Kinglake, the Russians first marked the English defiling across the heights of Mackenzie's Farm, is now laid out as a boulevard, with a cafe and club room. On Sundays this club room is devoted to dancing; and the sight of this boulevard, thronged with people, whilst the darkness conceals the ruins of the houses round about, makes you fancy that you are in the midst of a thriving and populous town. The most thickly inhabited part has indeed strayed down from the Eastern to the Western side of this ridge, away from the Man-of-War Harbor toward the creeks which Kinglake calls Artillery Bay and the Quarantine Harbor, so that a traveller on first landing is more perhaps struck by the appearance of desolation than is strictly fair. The great sea forts, however—Fort Nicholas, Fort Alexander, and the Quarantine Sea Fort—which guarded the entrance to the roadstead on this side, are an indistinguishable heap of ruins, and their site was marked only by some surveying posts recently set up.—*Blackwood's Magazine.*

Reminiscences of Hazlitt.

Hazlitt entered a room as if he had been brought back to it in custody. He shuffled sidelong to the nearest chair, sat himself down upon one corner of it, dropped his hat and his eyes upon the floor, and, after having exhausted his stock of small talk in the words, "It's a fine day" (whether it was so or not), seemed to resign himself moodily to his fate, and, if the talk did not take a turn that roused him, thus he would sit, intent and half-absorbed, for half an hour or half a minute, as the case might be, and then get up suddenly with a "Well, good morning," shuffle back to the door and blunder his way out, audibly muttering curses on his folly for willingly putting himself in the way of becoming the laughing stock of the servants for it was of that intellectual grade of persons that Hazlitt alone stood in awe. There was no reaching a drawing-room without running the gauntlet of the servants' hall; and this it was that crushed and confounded him. I am certain that Hazlitt never knocked at a door without fearing that it might be opened by a new servant, who would wonder what so "strange" a person could want with their master or mistress.

And this "poor creature" (as he used sometimes to call himself), apparently with scarcely energy enough to grapple with an infant or face a shadow, was the launcher forth of words that could shake the hearts of princes and potentates, and make them tremble in their seats of power. This effigy of silence was the utterer of floods of indignant eloquence that could stir the blood like the sound of a trumpet, and the writer of the celebrated invectives of the "Catalogue Raisonne," the essays on "The Spirit of Monarchy" and "The Regal Character."

Woman and her Boots.

Woman is not in the habit of taking the advice so freely offered to her in a kindly spirit by man. She listens apparently to all he says as to the inconvenience and extravagance of her dress and of its prejudicial effect on her health, but she pays no attention to his warnings, and resolutely follows the path of her own inclinations, even though it leads to the workhouse or grave, with that firmness which is one of her most charming characteristics. At this season of the year, however, when, owing to the treacherous nature of our climate and greasy condition of our pavements, outdoor exercise is often as dangerous as it is beneficial, woman can hardly fail to see the absurdity of her high-heeled boots. It is quite impossible for her to walk with any ease, comfort, or safety to herself in these instruments of torture, which by throwing her out of the perpendicular give her the appearance of the leaning tower of Pisa, and produce an impression on spectators that she may at any moment topple over. Her boots, also, are far too thin for walking purposes, and it was only last week that an inquest was held on the body of a young lady who, owing to a nail piercing the sole of her boot, received such an injury to the foot that she died of lockjaw. Woman, moreover, now that she takes so active a part in the business of life and is almost ubiquitous, requires to be strongly if not ponderously shod, so that, when necessity arises, she may hold her own with man, returning kick for kick with that fascinating but foolish creature. A few words from the pulpit would perhaps induce her to take the question of boot reform into her serious consideration.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

A Fool's Wit.

Most ladies,—especially if young, handsome and wealthy, have in attendance a "fool," either in the shape of a lover or friend, but we fear not possessing the privileges or inclination to exercise them so freely used in olden times.

In a work named "Doran's Court Fools" we met with the following: "At the court of Queen Elizabeth was one Dean Perne, who had oscillated from one faith to another three or four times in about a dozen years.

He with Archbishop Whitgift was in attendance on the Queen one wet day, when her majesty was desirous of going out for a walk.

The desire was an unwise one, for Elizabeth was in ill health; the divines were, however, not bold enough to dissuade her. But Clod, the Queen's fool, had the courage: 'Madam,' said he, 'heaven dissuades you, for it is cold and wet, and earth dissuade you, for it is damp and dirty. Heaven dissuades you too, by this heavenly man, Archbishop Whitgift; and earth dissuades you by me, your fool, Clod—the lump of clay that I am. But if neither can prevail you, here is the Dean Perne, who is neither of heaven nor of earth, but hangs between the two, and he, too dissuades you.

A Stingy Widow.

A good story was told me by a German lady who attributes it to the "Grimm Brothers;" but it certainly is not among their translated stories. The translator doubtless possessed too much delicacy to present it in English. However, the best part of the incident is said to have taken place in heaven, and certainly St. Peter would not allow any indecent conduct up there; hence, I am encouraged to repeat it, as near as I can remember the case.

Once upon a time there was a very stingy woman, the wife of an honest peasant in good circumstances. They lived together and labored incessantly to lay up earthly stores, so that when they were old and feeble and could work no longer they would have enough to keep them from consuming the grudgingly bestowed crust generally offered to poor relations. But about the time they had nearly enough, the good old man closed his eyes in this weary world and gave up the ghost.

Now the old woman had an extended reputation, founded upon an avaricious disposition, and knowing this the sister of deceased, fearing the man would be sent to eternal rest destitute of good clothes, decidedly that most desirable article, a shirt, took it upon herself to provide and robe her dear brother with one at her own expense.

This was accordingly done, much to the gratification of the mourning widow, who, after she was left alone with the dead, became possessed of a greed unconquerable, and began to reason thus:

"There lies my poor old man, with a couple of yards of fine linen under him; now he is not used to that sort of thing, and I doubt if he will rest well on such a piece of extravagance. I think it is my duty to make the last bed as natural and comfortable as possible."

Forthwith she takes the shears, turns the resistless husband over in his coffin and cuts off about a yard of his shirt where it had no gathers and seems. "This," said she, "will come handy some day, and nobody will ever be the wiser. It would be a sin and a shame to bury so much fine linen!"

However, the sister did not quite trust this sister-in-law, and just before the funeral investigated matters, and discovered the robbery—but held her peace, and as soon as the burial was over, related the deed to the priest, and asked him to punish the wicked creature when she came to come. But the widow had no intention of confessing anything about the linen and time passed on until the sister became impatient, but the clever priest told her to wait, he would force the confession from her by-and bye.

When the widow next came to him he looked very sad, and she asked him if he was sick.

"No," said he, "but I had a vision last night that troubles me greatly. I thought I was in heaven and the angels were all having such a glorious time dancing and singing, and I looked around for your husband, but he was not amongst the joyous ones."

"You see, holy father," the woman exclaimed, "he never was much of a hand to dance, and was a good deal out of practice."

"No, it was not that; for I saw him away over in a corner, keeping time to the music with hands and feet, and wriggling with his body from right to left, but his back was pressed as close to the wall as if he had been glued there for punishment. I am sorely puzzled."

This frightened the woman so terribly that she fell on her knees and confessed having curtailed her husband's shroud.

Then the briest forced her to disgorge her ill-gotten linen and do penance by paying so much a week of her hoarded earnings until her husband's shirt should grow to a decent length to permit him to join other angels in the dance.

As this took a very long while, the stingy old thing became justly poor before her death, and then she was sent to her doom wrapped in a sheet.

Royalty.

From the Almanach de Gotha for 1876 it appears that there are thirty-eight sovereigns and three republics in Europe. The pope is the oldest sovereign (83), and has reigned the longest—twenty-nine years. Emperor William comes next, and is 78; the Czar is 57; Queen Victoria, 56; Victor Emanuel, 55; Francis Joseph, 44; and Alfonso, the youngest of all, 18. San Marino is the oldest republic, Switzerland is the next, and France is the youngest of all, having been born at Sedan in 1870. There are now officially recognized and respected 145 orders of chivalry, including those of the White Elephant, of Siam, and Bolivar's Bust, of Venezuela. The second part of the almanach is devoted to princes, including all the noble families of Great Britain, Germany, France, and Italy. Two hundred and sixteen pages are accorded them for the description of these 161 houses, embracing the entire stock of European aristocracy worth taking off one's hat to; since the remaining dribblets not mentioned in the Almanach de Gotha are indeed small beer. Thus, 38 monarchs and 161 family stocks rule over two hundreds millions of people. The Irish duke of Abercorn heads the class, which is appropriately footed up by the Grecian Prince Ypsilanti; between this Alpha and Omega the others stand. In the chronicle of notable events for the year ending June 30, 1875, the most notable in America is the following: "1874, August, Gen. Grant puts forward for a third term his candidacy to the presidency of the republic."

Glimpses of the Supernatural.

A brother of mine, a man who is the last person in the world to believe over much, or to be in the least degree superstitious, wishing to be near a particular town, and yet within easy reach of the permanent county residence of his greatest friend, was induced (A. D. 1862) to take over the remainder of the lease of an old-fashioned furnished mansion in Cheshire, where he, with his wife, children, and servants, in due course went to reside. He was advised to take the place as well because of the reasonableness of the rent, for it was spacious and comfortably furnished, as by the recommendation of the London house agents, a well-known firm in the West End, whith whom the letting of it rested.

Soon after the arrival of the family and servants, the latter protested again and again that they were disturbed almost every night by a continual "tramp, tramp, tramp" of heavy footsteps up the stairs and along the narrow passage, out of which were two doors which led to their bedrooms. They would have it that the house was haunted. The sounds were sometimes so loud and alarming that, as one of the servants remarked, "It seemed like a regiment of foot soldiers marching over creaking boards." Complaints were made to my brother, who merely said that the noises must be the result of wind under the joists or of rats, and he laughed at the whole affair. Some of the servants gave warning and left. Still the sounds went on, not always every night, but, with certain cessations, from time to time.

In the autumn of the year 1863, a lady, her daughter of fourteen, and a maid, came to stay in the house; and as the former was somewhat of an invalid, a suite of rooms in the west wing, each communicating with the other, was apportioned to them. The second night after their arrival, the lady in question, suddenly awakening, saw in her bedroom a luminous cloud, which gradually appeared to be formed into the shape of an old man, with a most painfully depressing countenance, full of the deepest sorrow, and wearing a large full bottomed wig. She tried to raise herself in bed, to see if it were not the effect of her half-waking fancy, and the result of a disturbed dream, but could not. The room, in which there was no natural light, seemed to be partially but quite sufficiently illuminated; and she felt confident that a spectre was before her. She gazed at it for some minutes, three at least, hearing the ticking of her watch, and counting the seconds. There the apparition stood, and seemed to be making an effort to speak, while a strange, dull inarticulate groan seemed to come up as from the floor. Upon this, seeing the bell rope hanging within the folds of the curtain at her right hand, she braced herself up to seize it and give it a most violent pull. Immediately she did this the face of the figure bore an expression of anger, and by degrees it faded away. The bell, which hung some distance away, was heard by no one, and she was compelled to lie alone, for she feared to rise (though the apparition did not reappear) until the church clock near struck four, when, the morning having broken, she rose and dressed herself.

In the morning, before she had said a word, her daughter, on meeting her, said, "Oh, mamma, an old man in a great wig trampled through my room twice in the night. Who could it have been?"

The lady being so impressed by these occurrences, which her host and hostess would persist in saying were only the result of her own fancy, determined on leaving in the course of a few days (as she afterward stated). On the following night she slept with a night light, and the door into her maid's room open. But the noise of tramping, which had been hitherto heard only in the servant's wing of the house, which was opposite, was now heard in the east side of it. "Tramp, tramp, tramp!" the sounds were heard constantly, without cessation; so much so, that the master of the house, my brother, rose suddenly that very night, thinking that thieves had broken in, and rushed out to the east passage. But all in a moment they stopped; nothing was to be heard, nothing seen; all was still. This occurred again and again.

The lady left as arranged. The noise ceased for a while, and then began once more. It was with difficulty that any of the servants could be induced to remain, believing that the house was haunted.—*Rev. F. R. Lee.*

The India-Rubber Trees.

The India-rubber tree is found in parts of Mexico, Central and South America and in the East Indies, and is one of the noblest and most picturesque of all the trees of the forest. In Assam, beyond the Ganges, it is found in inexhaustible abundance. It is either solitary or in two or three-fold groups; is large and umbrageous and may be distinguished from other trees at a distance of several miles by the striking beauty of its dense and lofty crown. The main trunk of one of the Assam trees measured seventy-four feet in circumference, and the area covered by its expanded branches, had a circumference of six hundred and ten feet. The height of the central tree was one hundred feet. It has been estimated that there are over forty-three thousand such trees in one district, within an area of thirty miles by eight. It grows on the slopes of the mountains, from the valleys up to an elevation of twenty-two thousand feet. The raw seeds are poisonous to man and quadruped, but macaws eat them and they are used for fish bait. Long boiling deprives them of their poison.

A large proportion of the quantity of rubber or caoutchouc, furnished to commerce comes from Brazil. The process of gathering the juice is very simple. The tree is tapped in the morning, and a gill of fluid is received in a clay cup placed at each incision in the trunk. This, when full, is turned into a jar, and is ready at once to be poured over any pattern in clay, the form of which it takes, as successive layers are thus applied. It comes from the tree purely colorless, like milk, but when exposed to the sun it is white within and a yellowish brown without. Its drying and hardening are hastened by exposure to the smoke and heat of a fire, and it thus acquires its ordinary black color. Complete drying by the sun requires several days' exposure; during this time the substance is soft enough to receive impressions from a stick, and is thus ornamented with various designs. The natives collect it upon balls of clay in the forms of bottles and various fanciful figures, in which shape it is often exported. The clay mould, over which the bottles are formed, being broken up, is extracted through the open neck. Usually it has been brought to this country in flat cakes; but a method has been devised by which the liquid is shipped in air-tight vessels of tin or glass, just as it comes from the tree.

An Astronomical Difficulty.

A curious paper was handed in recently at the sitting of the Academy of Sciences, by M. Baills, on a still unexplained question of astronomy. In 1596 the Dutch pilot Barentz, who had been shipwrecked on the coast of Nova Zembla, was obliged to Winter there with his crew at the place called Icy Haven, situated at 76 degrees North latitude, and 65 degrees 4 minutes East longitude from Paris. During their stay on this inhospitable coast these Dutch mariners witnessed a singular phenomenon, the cause of which has remained unknown up to this day. On the 4th of November the sun had quitted the horizon, as it was expected to do, and the night was, in due course, to last until the 8th of February. Instead of this, the sun reappeared on the 24th of January, a date which our author corrects from calculation, and finds to have been the 25th. In short, daylight came a fortnight earlier than was expected. On their return to Holland, this piece of news they brought was received with universal incredulity, but Barentz adduced an argument in support which was decisive. It was this: On that memorable January 24 he had, at six o'clock A. M., observed a conjunction of the moon and Jupiter. Now, this astronomical event was marked on the ephemerides of Venice for that day at six o'clock after midnight. This settled the question, and the only difficulty now remained, how to explain the premature return of the sun. The phenomenon was attributed to the great polar cold, and it was admitted that the refraction of the atmosphere could, in certain cases, amount to $4\frac{1}{2}$ degrees. A long time after, about 1670, Lemonnier took up the matter, and found an error in the longitude, which Barentz seemed to have mistaken, and it might therefore be doubted whether he saw the conjunction at all. M. Baills has endeavored to elucidate this point by taking up all the calculations again from the beginning. He arrives at the conclusion that Barentz certainly committed an error, but not that attributed to him by Lemonnier, whose calculation was wrong; that Barentz nevertheless could have seen Jupiter in a line with the horns of the moon, and that the premature appearance of the sun was caused by reflection, similar to that which produces the rainbow.—*Paris Messenger.*

Survival of the Most Transparent.

In a fantastic tale entitled "Manmatha," printed in the January *Atlantic*, are to be found these curious suggestions:

It occurs to one very soon that animal life does exist of so transparent a texture that to all intent and purposes it is invisible. The spawn of frogs, the larvæ of certain fresh-water insects, many marine animals are so clear of texture that they are seen with difficulty. In the tropics a particular inhabitant of smooth seas is as invisible as a piece of glass, and can be detected only by the color mingled in its eyes. At first reflection a thousand instances arise of assimilation of animal life to their surroundings, of mimicry of Nature with a view to safety. Why, then, by survival of the most transparent, should not some invisible life hod a secure position on the earth?

Pondering thus, I had been startled not a little by coming now and again on facts that seemed to bear this out. Strange tracks through untrodden grass suggested footsteps of the unseen. Flattened spaces of peculiar shape in the standing rye, where human beings could not have intruded, looked marvellously like human visitation. Or I lay concealed and watched the crows in a roadside field. What was it caused them to look up suddenly and flap away on sooty fringed wings? No bird, beast or man came. Then the rats scampering about under a dock, like so many gaunt Virginia swine; all at once came flurry of whisking tails, and they were off! Yet I had not stirred, nor did anything move on the dock above. Nevertheless all seemed to realize a common danger, a noise of some kind—perhaps a step? Again, you sit like a block while a snake basks unconscious in the sun, and may watch many hours without event; but sometimes it happens that he raises his head, quivers for an instant his double tongue, and slides off the stump into a bush. At such times put your ear to the earth. Do you not distinguish—or is it all imagination—a sound, a brushing?

AGRICULTURAL.

How to Treat Plants that have Become Frozen.—The disastrous effects which tender plants, which have become frozen, are subject to, is generally known to cultivators; but how or why freezing produces the effect it does upon plant life, is not so easily ascertained, and all attempts heretofore made by scientific men to solve the question, have been, at most, only partially successful. In practical experience it is found that the length of time and the degree of cold to which plants are exposed, affect them in proportion to the duration and intensity of these conditions, which points, therefore, to the speedy restoration of a suitable temperature, as the best means of restoring plants that have been unfortunately exposed to frosts. But the thawing out should in all cases be moderately gradual, and one of the best things to do when plants have become frozen, either in the dwelling, conservatory, or open air, is to sprinkle the foliage with cold cistern or well water, as the temperature turns to rise. In the dwelling or conservatory, however, it will be necessary to start the fire in the stove, furnace or flue the first thing of all, to give the temperature an ascendancy, but it should, for several hours, not be allowed to rise above an ordinary suitable degree. Some advocate shading the plants from the sun and light for some length of time, but the policy of so doing has never been apparent to me, while I have frequently had proofs to the contrary; and the sun's rays striking upon the plants, with gradually increasing heat, in a great measure aid in their recovery. There is a great difference in plants as regards their ability to resist cold, and while some the slightest frost will injure beyond cure, others will bear various degrees, and even alternate freezing and thawing again and again, with impunity. Avoid handling plants in a frozen condition as much as possible, as the injury to them will be heightened should the leaves become bent or be roughly brushed over. To restore flowers that have become frozen, place them in cold water until they have thawed out.—*Home Florist.*

The Best Manure.—It is an established fact, says the *Scientific Farmer*, that no one constituent of plant food can keep a soil fertile. Some farmers buy freely of phosphatic manures, as bone dust, superphosphate of lime, and experience good results for a few years and praise it accordingly. Then the crops fall off and the fertilizer dealer and his goods are denounced, and some other manure is tried—nitrogenous, probably. The change improves the yield, but this in time fails. Perhaps, now, the farmer, gets ashes or other manure containing potash into the system, and with still more marked results, it may be, than with the first use of the other sorts. But this does not last, and he returns in disgust to his stable manure, and again, his results are good, for in barnyard manure are all the elements of fertility, though usually insufficient in quantity to secure the best results.

Now what is the reason? It is not that any one item of plant food is more efficient than another; but the explanation lies in the fact that the kind that produced the favorable effect was that which the soil was most lacking. This it is that while crops require food in certain amounts and proportions, yet the application of potash, for example, in some form, or superphosphate of lime, alone causes a large yield for a year or two, and then the beneficient action ceases, unless the other requisite substances are supplied by natural resources, or by the system of cropping, which is infrequent.

The best system of manuring farm lands, then, is to supply all the fertilizing elements which the soil and crop demand, in proper proportions and amounts, while at the same time taking care of the physical condition of the soil, as by keeping up the store of humus.

Verily the farmer needs the best education, and best judgment, that training and study can give, while some of them say they know enough, and have no time to read, nor any need of light and knowledge.

Growth of Plants.—Plants grow much better where the temperature runs lower at night than during the day. It never should go below 40 degrees Fah. in the first case, or below 50 degrees in the second case. If plants stand near a window, a screen should be made by pasting papers to a frame, similar to that used for mosquito screens, placing it between the plants and the window every night. A screen made in this way can be inserted in a moment, and may consist of several thicknesses of paper.

A moist atmosphere is indispensable to the healthy growth of plants, and is obtained by keeping the pan in the furnace filled with water, or an urn or some other vessel upon the stove. The atmosphere must be free from sulphurous gases, and to accomplish this end the back damper in the stove must be kept open enough to allow its escape, and the windows raised a little every day for a short time when the temperature outside will allow.

If small plants, taken from the greenhouse, be carefully potted in suitable soil placed in a room with a somewhat moist atmosphere, free from poisonous gases, carefully watered, exposed to the sunlight a part of the day, no insects allowed upon them, and the temperature kept as directed they will grow and will repay the labor of caring for them, and homes be made brighter and happier by the presence of an abundance of flowers.

Diseases of Horses.—The diseases to which the horse is liable, are very numerous, but ninety in every hundred are caused by neglect, and are therefore, readily prevented by giving the animal proper care. As the cold rainy season approaches in the Northern States, we shall begin to hear of greasy heel, a disease caused by neglect in removing mud and snow from the legs and feet when the animal is returned to the stable after driving, or permitting him to stand in his own filth. No horse ever had what is termed "grease" or sore heels, that was properly groomed and given a dry, clean stall. The same may be said of that loathsome disease known as "thrush," for it is merely decay of the frog and hoof through standing in wet soil or in animal excrement. Mange and other diseases of the skin usually originate in filthy stables, and although they may be transmitted to animals well cared for, still there is little danger of it except through actual contact. Ringbone, spavin, and diseases of the limbs are usually caused by strains, hard driving, or by accident. Founder, heaves, roaring and similar diseases are produced by hard driving, feeding, or watering when the animal is very warm, or by giving musty, poor food when in the stable.

The Actions of Lime.—Ashes and lime do not react upon each other to form an insoluble compound, when applied to the land, nor is any injurious compound of any kind liable to be produced. Lime applied to a soil consisting mostly of oyster shells could not do much good, unless the soil contained also a considerable proportion of organic matter as essential to the constitution of a good healthy soil, and if there is already in the beginning less than this proportion, the addition of lime will reduce it and do harm; liming without manuring will impoverish any soil, sooner or later; the sooner, the smaller the quantity of plant food that there is in it to start with. On a very sandy soil lime is said to be able to form a sort of mortar with the sand. In one or both of these considerations it seems possible to find a good reason why you should think that time is working very unfavorably on your very sandy soil.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

Don't Quarrel with your Horse.—Don't quarrel with your horse—because it's mean to quarrel with a strong creature who could easily kill you if he wished to do so, but who is only anxious to obey your commands, so far as he can comprehend them.

Don't quarrel with your horse—because it is cruel and foolish to attempt to obtain by force, what you can much more easily and certainly obtain by kindness.

Lastly, don't quarrel with your horse—because, if you do, you will excite the indignation and contempt of all who understand the nature and proper treatment of horses.

SCIENTIFIC.

Koumiss.—The foreign medical journals are giving considerable prominence to the discussion of the utility of koumiss as a remedy for that, now to all intents, incurable disease, consumption. It is to this peculiar preparation that the Tartars attribute their total immunity from the disease; and that this immunity has long since been traced to koumiss by Russian physicians is proved in the fact that the latter as frequently send consumptives to regions where koumiss is constantly used as the physicians in this country dispatch patients to the orange orchards of Florida for the winter.

The Tartars, above all other people, excel in the manufacture. The material is an alcoholic liquor produced by the fermentation of mare's milk. A certain quantity of the latter is placed in a wooden vessel, and one sixth of its amount in water is added. A similar amount of cow's milk is next poured in, and then the receptacle is covered with a thick cloth, and either buried in the earth or subjected to a moderate heat for 24 hours. The mixture becomes sour, and thick clots form on its surface, but these last are again incorporated by brisk stirring, which is continued until the liquor becomes homogeneous. Another twenty-four hours' repose follows; the liquid is transferred to a higher and narrower vessel, and the stirring and beating operation is repeated. It is then ready for use, although the stirring has to be done over again every time the contents of the vessel are drawn upon after any period of rest.

The taste is agreeable, and of a kind of acid sweet. A dose of something less than a quart is intoxicating, even to persons habituated to its use. It appears to act upon the faculties of nutrition like alcohol and raw meat, that is, it moderates the consumptive action of the disease. The patient gains in weight.

In the large cities af Europe, koumiss has, in cases where large quantities of mare's milk were unattainable, been made of cow's milk alone, or mingled with asses' milk. To use it as a medicine, it is bottled, and a tube is forced down through the stopper, as in the siphon jars so much in use by mineral water makers, said tube having a suitable faucet. The pressure of gas generated in the bottle is always sufficient to drive out the koumiss forcibly, so that it can be drawn off at pleasure, like artificial seltzer water.

A Rare Musical Instrument.—A correspondent of the *Scientific American* thus describes an harmonium, which must be singularly perfect: "I have in my possession a musical instrument of rare purity and sweetness of tone, which was made by my father very many years ago. The sounds are produced by thin flint glass hemispheres, supported by brass stems and varying in diameter from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 inches, each one giving an absolute perfect and unchanging tone. The instrument has a compass of three full octaves, with the semitones, and is enclosed in a mahogany case, making a handsome piece of parlor furniture. Any composition not too rapid in movement can be played by a skilful performer. The tones far surpass in delicacy and sweetness any known instrument, uniting the softness of the æolian harp to the power of the violin. The pitch of each glass is determined in the blowing, and can be but slightly varied by cutting the glass lower at the edge. Water deadens the sound, and robs it of all its exquisite *timbre*. Many thousands of glasses had to be made before the perfect instrument was produced. It may be interesting to mention that, by means of these glasses, my father was enabled to divide a semitone into sixteen clearly defined intervals, the difference between any two successive glasses being so slight as to be almost undistinguishable."

Decreasing flow of Rivers.—The Vienna Academy of Sciences is occupied with a question which concerns all Europe—the decrease of the quantity of water in springs, rivers, and water courses. A circular, accompanied by a very instructive report, has been addressed to the scientific societies of other countries, inviting them to undertake observations which, in time, may yield useful results. The Academy calls attention to the fact that during a certain number of years there has been observed a diminution in the waters of the Danube and other large rivers, especially since the practice of felling forests has become common. The Austrian Engineers' and Architects' Union are also occupied with this question and have appointed a hydrostatic commission to collect facts and prepare a report. The Danube, the Elbe, and the Rhine have each been assigned to two members, while two others will be occupied with the meteorology relating to the same subject and with the influence that glaciers and Alpine torrents may exercise on the general result. The commission considers the question urgent, and recommends the immediate adoption of measures to remedy the evil. According to the *Revue Franco et Foreign*, it is unanimous in declaring that the prime cause of the disastrous decrease of the water is the devastation of the forests.—*Nature*

The Temperature of the Earth.—The interest which attaches to careful observations of the temperature of the earth suggests that the apparatus which is used in Germany should be better known in this country, in order that, when practicable, it may be introduced here. The following is a description of it as used by observers in Hungary. In its general outlines it does not differ from that recommended by Lamont. It consists principally of a rectangular tube buried permanently in the earth, in which five rectangular prisms of wood are placed, one above the other, at different depths in the ground, and which by a simple arrangement can be easily and quickly drawn up. Each of these tubes contains a thermometer, and there is a hole in the side of the main tube, opposite to the bulb of the thermometer, where the woodwork is cut away, and the opening closed by a plate of thin sheet copper, whose temperature may be presumed to be the same as that of the adjacent ground. The depths at which the thermometers' bulbs remain are 4, 8, 12, 16, and 20 feet. Shenzl, as the result of observations made during eight years, finds that the time required for heat to penetrate to a depth of one meter is, on the average, 21 days.

Parlor Magic.—The following beautiful experiment in instantaneous crystallization is given by Peligot in *La Nature*: Dissolve 150 parts, by weight, of hyposulphite of soda in 15 parts boiling water, and gently pour it into a tall test glass so as to half fill it keeping the solution warm by placing the glass in hot water. Dissolve 100 parts, by weight, sodic acetate in 15 parts hot water, and carefully pour it into the same glass; the latter will form an overlaying layer on the surface of the former, and will not mix with it. When cool, there will be two supersaturated solutions. If a crystal of sodic hyposulphite be attached to a thread and carefully passed into the glass, it will traverse the acetate solution without disturbing it, but, on reaching the hyposulphite solution, will cause the latter to crystallize instantaneously in large rhomboidal prisms with oblique terminal faces. When the lower solution is completely crystallized, a crystal of sodic acetate, similarly lowered into the upper solution, will cause it to crystallize in oblique rhombic prisms. The appearance of the two different kinds of crystals will not fail to astonish those not aquainted with this class of experiments.

The drive wells which are extensively used in the South and West are made as follows: A piece of $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches gas pipe is perforated with several hundred holes near the end, which is covered with a fine brass wire screen, and this in turn is protected by a covering of sheet zinc or iron also perforated. The extremity of the pipe is sharpened, or a steel point may be fixed. It is then driven into the ground, adding pieces on the top as it sinks in. As soon as the proper depth is reached, a pump is attached, and the result is an inexhaustible well, often giving an abundant supply of water in half an hour after the end of the pipe first entered the soil.

To solder German silver, pour out some spirit of salt in an earthenware dish, and add a piece of zinc. Then scrape clean the edges to be soldered, and paint over with the spirit of salt. Apply a piece of pewter solder to the point and melt with the blowpipe.

Great wealth comes by destiny; moderate wealth by industry.

DOMESTIC.

Milk Diet.—"I find by experience," says Dr. E. N. Chapman, "that limewater and milk is not only food and medicine at an early period of life, but also at a later, when, as in the case of infants, the functions of digestion and assimilation have been seriously impaired. A stomach taxed by gluttony, irritated by improper food, inflamed by alcohol, enfeebled by disease, or otherwise unfitted for its duties, as is shown by the various symptoms attendant upon indigestion, dyspepsia, diarrhœa, dysentery and fever, will resume its work and do it energetically, on an exclusive diet of lime water and milk. A goblet of cow's milk, to which four tablespoonfuls of lime-water have been added, will agree with any person, however objectionable the plain article may be, will be friendly to the stomach when other food is oppressive, and will be digested when all else fails to afford nourishment. Of this statement I have had positive proof in very many cases.

"The blood being thin, the nerves weak, the nutrition poor, the secretions defective, and excretions insufficient, the physician has at hand a remedy as common as the air, and as cheap almost as water. In it all the elements of nutrition are so prepared by Nature as to be readily adapted to the infant or the adult stomach, and so freighted with healing virtues as to work a cure when drugs are worse than useless."

Chowder.—Here is Daniel Webster's receipt for fish chowder, taken down from his dictation: Take a cod weighing ten or twelve pounds, (cod is better than haddock,) have it well cleaned by the fish monger, leaving the skin on; cut it into slices an inch and a half thick, preserving the head, which is the best part for chowder; take a pound and a half of clean, fat salt pork, and cut it in thin slices; do the same with sixteen or eighteen good-sized potatoes; take a very large pot, put the pork into the bottom of it, and fry out all the fat; take out the pork, but leave the fat in the pot; add to it three pints of water; then put in a layer of fish, so as to cover as much of the surface of the pot as possible; then a layer of potatoes; then sift over two tablespoonfuls of salt and a teaspoonful of pepper and a little flour; then the pork cut in strips; then another layer of fish and what potatoes there may be left, and fill up the pot with water until it covers the whole. Put the pot over a good fire, and let the chowder boil twenty-five minutes; then have ready a quart of boiling milk and twelve or fourteen hard crackers split; put these in and let it all boil together five minutes longer. Your chowder will then be ready for the table, and an excellent one it will be if you follow the directions strictly.

P. S.—A couple of onions may be added where people have a taste for that (to me) unsavory vegetable.

Washing Fine Underclothing.—A leading firm, importers and retailers of hosiery goods in Philadelphia, gives the Germantown *Telegraph* the following directions for washing merino, lambs' wool, and silk underclothing, and that paper bears witness to its excellence: Use one pound of dissolved soap in four gallons of warm water, in which rinse well the articles to be washed, drawing them repeatedly through the hand; wring them as dry as possible, to remove the soap; rinse them again briskly in clean, lukewarm water; wring and stretch them to their proper shape, and dry in the open air if possible. The only effects of rubbing are to shrink and destroy the material; it should, therefore, never be resorted to. The material used in manufacturing silk underwear being an animal product, it is absolutely necessary that nothing but the best quality of soap and warm water should be used. All kinds of washing compounds destroy the nature of the material, giving to the fabric the appearance of poor cotton.

To Make Hominy.—The lye in which the corn is boiled must not be strong; it is better to be weak, and boil it longer. Three hours is long enough to boil it in lye. Then pour it into a tub in which there is a pail or two of water. Drain it off, and put on enough clean water to cover it well. Then take a clean broom and stir, scrub and wash the corn with it briskly. Do this three or four times, after pouring off and adding clean water. Then let it stand half an hour in the last clean water poured on it. There is no need of putting hands about it at all while washing and rinsing it, not even when you take it out of the tub, which can be done with a saucer or a skimmer. If the weather is cold, drain the water off and let it stand out all night and freeze; then it won't take any longer to cook it than to cook a mess of beans. Boil it slowly, salt it a little, and then not until you are about taking it off the fire. Leave plenty of water about it in which it was boiled.

Pleasant Bedrooms.—There is nothing more indicative of refinement or genuine culture in a family than bright, cheerful and tastefully decorated bedchambers. Tasteful decoration does not necessarily mean expense, and it is possible to make a chamber look very pretty at a very small outlay. Indeed, in many instances, no outlay at all will be required beyond what would be incurred under any circumstances. The women of a family, especially, are apt to pass a good portion of their time in their bed-chamber, and in some households the sleeping apartments are used alike for sewing and sitting-rooms and nurseries. It is worth while to obtain all the innocent pleasure we can find in this life, and there can be no doubt that life is pleasanter if most of its hours are passed in cheerful-looking apartments.

Headache.—The administration of a brisk purgative, or a small dose of Epsom salts, twice a day, is a most effectual remedy for frontal headache when combined with constipation; but if the bowels be regular, the morbid processes on which it depends seem to be checked, and the headache removed more effectually by nitro hydrochyric acid or by alkalies, given before meals. If the headache be immediately above the eyebrows, the acid is best; but if it be a little higher up, just where the hair begins, the alkalies appear to be more effectual. At the same time that the headache is removed, the feeling of sleepiness and weariness which frequently leads the patient to complain that they rise up more tired than they lie down, generally disappears.

To Cure Hams.—For one hundred pounds of meat take five pounds of sugar, two ounces of pulverized saltpetre and seven pints of salt. Rub the hams first with saltpetre and then with the sugar; then pack them in a meat-tub and let them remain one week; rub salt into them and pack them again in the same tub. They will be ready for the smoke house in from four to six weeks, depending upon the size of the ham. The position of the hams ought to be changed several times, so that all will be equally salted.

Oatmeal and Teeth.—The London *Medical Record* says:—"It has long been noted in this country that in those districts where the use of oatmeal (in place of wheaten flour) prevails, we find children and adults with the best developed teeth and jaws; and so well recognized is the influence of oatmeal diet upon the teeth, that many practitioners order its use as an article of daily diet for children, in cases where the dentition seems likely to be either retarded or imperfect."

Stewing Chickens.—Parboil two fine chickens, take them up in a large dish, cut them up, and separate all the joint bones one from another. Then take out the breast bone, add a little of the water they were stewed in, a blade of mace and a pinch of salt, cover closely with another dish, and put it in to stew until the fowls are tender. Serve hot in the same dish.

To Restore Gilt Frames.—Take one ounce of cooking soda and beat it thoroughly with the whites of three eggs. Blow off the dust with a pair of bellows, or brush it out with a feather duster. Then dip a small paint brush into the mixture and rub it all over the gilding, into every tiny crevice, and it will render it fresh and bright.

Baking Powder.—A good baking powder is composed of nine ounces of bicarbonate of soda, eight ounces of tartaric acid, and ten ounces of ground rice or fine wheat flour.

HUMOROUS.

Found Worthy.—The husband of a fair lady of Pekin having left his home and prolonged his stay for an