FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

The Potato and Its Requirements.

It is very generally conceded that a clover soil is admirably adapted to the growth of a potato crop, producing tubers of excellent flavor and those least liable to disease. A slightly sandy soil, inclining to be dry rather than wet, furnishes potatoes of good quality. A calcareous soil produces a fair grade of tubers and generally a sure crop. Big crops of potatoes can be grown on low mucky land provided it is properly drained, but the presence of a large quantity of organic matter tells upon the quality of the roots. Heavy soils induce a watery insipidity of flavor, and render a dry, mealy product impossible. Wet land which has not been drained is, of course, wholly unfit for potato growing.

The ground for potatoes should be carefully prepared. The plan is to plow it deeply in the fall, lightly in the spring, turning under such manure as the soil lacks, and harrowing it until the earth is fine and mellow. Both hill and drill planting is practiced by successful cultivators. Each method has its merits as well as advocates. Many farmers cling to the older practice of high hills because they believe the tubers can be kept drier and warmer, and therefore less liable to drought than in level culture. A Pennsylvania correspondent whose experiments have proven what the friends in drill planting claim—i. e., a larger yield per acre—complains of a corresponding increase of expense for cultivation. He contends where land is plenty that rows three feet apart and hills three feet distant in the rows, permitting horse cultivation both ways, is the most profitable method, the cost of growing the crop being thereby greatly reduced. The distance apart of both hills and drills varies according to the character of the land and the kind of potato planted. Growths with large tops require a little more space, and under any circumstance there must be room enough for thorough culture. The usual rule regarding distances is hills three to three and a half feet apart each way; or plant in drills three to three and a half feet distant, with the seed one foot apart in the drills.

The relative merits of whole or cut potatoes for seed agitated the agricultural mind at each recurring season. The general rule arising from the conflicting experiences of successful growers is, select for seed none but the best and when the tuber is cut leave enough bulk to insure sufficient sustenance to the young plant. A very common plan is cutting the potato in pieces containing two eyes.

Successful culture depends largely—especially on old lands—on the liberal application of suitable fertilizers. Fine potatoes in goodly number cannot be produced without an abundant supply of proper food. The kind, amount and condition of the manure applied must vary greatly with the kind and condition of the soil. Fresh barnyard manures are not advised, as they are liable to affect the flavor of the potatoes and induce an undue growth of tops at the expense of the roots. Undecomposed stable manure has, however, proved valuable in exceptional cases when applied broadcast and plowed under, as in heavy clay soils. Generally speaking, however, only well-rotted stable or barnyard manure should be used, and when the soil is naturally rich this is best omitted in favor of other fertilizers, as salt, ashes and gypsum. A dressing of salt and unleached ashes applied in the growing season acts not only as a fertilizer but a preventive of the grub prevalent in richly-manured lands. Bone dust also greatly benefits a potato soil. The value of wood ashes to the potato crop cannot be too highly estimated.

The cultivation of the potato should be thorough, from the time the vines appear above the ground until they begin to bloom, when it should cease, beyond removing any weeds that may make an appearance. The economy in labor gained by using the plow for hoed crops is so well understood that it is not necessary to spend words in its favor.

The practice of sprouting potatoes for seed in hot-beds or baskets and trays set in some warm place is increasing in localities where early potatoes are liable to be overtaken by late spring frosts. This practice advances the crop about one fortnight.—*New York World.*

Recipes.

HAVANA BUTTER.—One and a half cupfuls white sugar, whites of three eggs, yolk of one; grated rind and juice of a lemon and a half, or two small ones. Cook over a slow fire twenty minutes, stirring all the while. Very nice for tarts or to be eaten as preserves.

FRIOASSEE OF CALF'S TONGUE.—Boil the tongue one hour; pare and cut into thick slices; roll them in flour and fry in dripping five minutes; put the tongues into a sauce-pan; add sliced onion, thyme and parsley; cover with a cupful of your soup or other gravy; simmer half an hour, covered tightly; take up the tongues and keep them warm; strain the gravy, thicken, put in four or five thin slices of lemon from which the peel has been taken; boil one minute, and pour over the fricassee.

BROWN BREAD.—One cupful of Indian meal, one cupful of flour, one cupful of molasses, two cupfuls of Graham meal, three cupfuls of water, one teaspoonful saleratus, also a little salt. Steam three hours. It is quite thin before steaming.

MASHED POTATOES — BROWNED. — Whip light with milk, butter and salt; pile upon a greased pie dish and brown in a good oven; slip to a hot dish by the aid of your cake turner.

STEWED APPLES.—Make a clear syrup of half a pound of sugar to one pint of water. Skim it; peel and core the apples, without injuring the shape. Let them be in cold water till the syrup is ready; to which add the juice of a lemon, and the peel, cut very fine. Stew the apples in the syrup till quite done. Quarters of oranges may be boiled in the same syrup instead of apples.

About Boiling Eggs.

There is an objection to the common way of boiling eggs which people do not understand. It is this: The white, under three minutes' rapid cooking, becomes tough and indigestible, while the yolk is left out. When properly cooked eggs are done evenly through like any other food. This result may be obtained by putting the eggs into a dish with a cover, as a tin pail, and then pouring upon them boiling water, two quarts or more to a dozen of eggs, and cover and set them away from the stove for fifteen minutes. The heat of the water cooks the eggs slowly and evenly and sufficiently, and to a jelly-like consistency, having the center, or yolk, harder than the white, and the egg tastes as much richer and nicer as a fresh egg is nicer than a stale egg; no person will want to eat them boiled after trying this method once.

An Eccentric Character.

George Albree, who died a short time ago in Pittsburg, Pa., in his seventy-eighth year, was a peculiar character as well as a local celebrity. Although he had been a merchant and had made an ample fortune, he had many crochets and various private pursuits which he was fond of discussing. He took a deep interest in meteorology, having kept a record of the weather for nearly half a century. He was often called the weather clerk, and he believed that no American living was so intimately acquainted as he with the subject, on which he was always voluble. The signal service bureau report never pleased him. He always declared that the men who made it did not understand their business, and that they were continually blundering in their predictions. He had long been a weather prophet, and a number of lucky guesses had so filled him with self-confidence and egotism that he was impatient of any opposition. One of his favorite speeches was: "What I don't know about weather isn't worth knowing." Born in the ancient town of Salem, Mass., he ran away to sea when he was only ten, and served on board a privateersman during the war of 1812. He took part in a number of minor engagements; witnessed the fight between the Boxer and Enterprise off the coast of Maine, and, having been wounded, drew a pension from the private navy fund. He was, it is said, the last privateer pensioner, having survived all his fellows. Theology was one of his specialties, and he had written and published at his own expense several works thereon. He did not belong to any sect, having so many opinions and beliefs of his own. Nearly everybody knew him in Pittsburg and liked him, for his eccentricity did not prevent him from being interesting

More German emigrants came to the United States last year than persons of any other nationality. They numbered 33,574; Ireland came next with 22,624 individuals.

SHEPHERD COWLEY IN PRISON.

A Minister's Experience as a Convict on Blackwell's Island.

Rev. Edward Cowley, who was sentenced to one year's imprisonment in the penitentiary on Blackwell's Island for ill-using and starving the children under his charge in the Shepherd's Fold, a New York charitable institution, is now undergoing his punishment. A New York paper gives the following graphic account of his first day's experience as a convict:

Arrived at the penitentiary, the party adjourned to the inner office, where the prisoner was introduced to Warden Fox, who, in response to his earnest prayers, allowed him to wait three-quarters of an hour, in expectation of a stay of proceedings. To the warden Cowley said: "I don't want to come here, and I feel terribly about coming, but now that I'm in for it I propose to take the bull by the horns. I shall give up all hopes of getting out, and settle down to work like a man." The warden shook his hand and said: "I'm glad to hear you say that Mr. Cowley. When a man comes here and puts on our shoes, the best thing he can do is to walk in them under the guidance of the rules. Do your work well, and don't give your keeper an opportunity to criticise you. That's my advice to you." The warden added that if he had a mechanical turn he might find something to do in the blacksmith shop or the shoe shop. "Yes," said Cowley, earnestly, with the tears standing in his eyes, "I want to work as hard as I can, to kill time and keep from thinking."

At 1:30 o'clock the ex-shepherd gave up his hopes of a stay and resigned himself to the hands of the prison barber. His glossy iron-gray beard and whiskers, which have been his pride during the twenty-five years of his ministry, were cut off short, and his chin shaved and trimmed till it was as smooth as a Dutch cheese. He was stripped of his clothing, placed in one of the three bath tubs ranged along the wall, and hot water turned on till the room were filled with a cloud of steam. After a refreshing bath he dressed himself, and, putting on a clean shirt and striped trousers, stepped upon the scales in his bare feet and was weighed, touching the beam at exactly 137 pounds. Then he mounted a measuring machine provided with a crossbar and post marked off in inches. The cross-piece was adjusted over the shepherd's gray hairs by a fellow convict, who sang out to the recording clerk, "Five feet two and one-half inches," which was duly entered in the prison books as a part of the description.

After this ceremony was completed he was dressed in prison garb, and then taken to the shoe shop. Mr. Cowley was introduced to the foreman of the shop, who consigned him to the care of an instructor, who in turn set him to work cutting out leather for the soles of the shoes, while he was given a bench in the front row, near the middle window and under the eye of the keeper. Before going, Mr. Ambrose enjoined the keeper to mark for punishment any prisoner who insulted or taunted the new comer in any manner. After the officers had left Mr. Cowley found some difficulty in cutting the soles, and was accordingly provided with a punch, and instructed to punch holes in the leather. It was a strange sight, the bare-headed, pallid-faced man, bending down patiently and resignedly to his unaccustomed task, handling his tools with the clumsiness of a beginner, and yet working away with the determination to do the best he could and give his keepers as little cause of complaint as possible.

At 5:30 o'clock the men quit work and marched in lock step to dinner. Mr. Cowley came the last but four in the shoe shop division, and found great difficulty in keeping step with his fellows. At times he would almost fall out of the line, and there was always more or less space between him and the man ahead of him. He ate sparingly of the mush and molasses set before him and seemed glad when supper was over and he could seek the seclusion of his cell. In closing the door at the word of command his "greenness" was again observable, and he was in danger of being marked for tardiness, until the convict ahead of him—a stalwart, good-natured youth stepped to his relief and showed him how to close the grating. Deputy Warden Ambrose, who personally saw the shepherd safely into his cell for the night, says the other prisoners have treated Cowley with kindness and consideration, and manifested no disposition to exult over his fallen fortunes. This is the more noticeable from the fact that a considerable number were prisoners during Cowley's chaplaincy in 1871, when he ordered prisoners into the dark cells for coughing during service. The cause of his dismissal at that time was his refusal to go into the smallpox hospital to administer spiritual consolation to the sick patients. The shepherd's cell—No. 5 on the second tier—is barely four feet wide, with just room enough for him to lie down on the narrow canvas cot which fills it. On Sunday he will sit under the same pulpit from which he preached to the prisoners nine years ago. He is the first regularly ordained white clergyman that ever served a term on the island.

The Source of Nihilism.

Russia is not the only European country in which the traveler feels that he is under a constant system of espionage. It is disagreeable even to a passing visitor, but it must press with constant weight upon the people themselves. Every Russian is sensible that he is under supervision, that he is never his own master nor able to act freely. He is liable to be reported on, and a record is kept of his conduct and tendencies. There is something maddening to some natures in being thus perpetually watched and tracked like a wild animal, and the Russian character is peculiarly liable to be worked into excitement by it. There is silence and gloom about the people whom one meets in public in Russian cities, which indicates that they are living under a constant sense of repression, and sooner or later nature is sure to assert itself against such an unnatural condition of existence. There is nothing, moreover, in the circumstances of Russian society to divert men's attention from this oppressive system. No public career is open to a Russian who does not belong to the official class; there is little independent professional life, and even commerce is in great measure confined within narrow and obsolete channels. In a word, the disease of Russia is not so much the absence of political life and freedom as the absence of any real life and freedom at all. No man feels that he is in any respect his own master, or that he can make his own career. In this gloom and sense of restraint men brood over their grievances; the more educated compare their condition with what they read of the life of other European countries, and it is no wonder if the weaker or more unscrupulous among them are incited to dark conspiracies against the whole order of society. The Russian nature, as is shown by the religious condition of the country, is liable to frantic fanaticism; and what we witness in the present horrible crimes is sufficiently accounted for by the operation of the influences we have described on this fanatical temperament.—*London Times.*

Words of Wisdom.

The more a man knows about any subject the greater will be his charity for and sympathy with views differing from his own.

Twenty men who believe what they profess, and live as they believe, are worth more than five hundred hypocrites to any good cause.

As frost to the bud and blight to the blossom, even such is self-interest to friendship. For confidence cannot dwell where selfishness is porter at the gate.

Our striving against nature is like holding a weathercock with one's hand; as soon as the force is taken off it veers again with the wind.

Every feature is a step to success; every detection of what is false directs toward what is true; every trial exhausts some tempting form of error. Not only so, but scarcely any attempt is entirely a failure; scarcely any theory, the result of steady thought, is altogether false; no tempting form is without some latent charm derived from truth.

A ship on the broad, boisterous, and open ocean, needeth no pilot. But it dare not venture alone on the placid bosom of a little river, lest it be wrecked by some hidden rock. Thus it is with life. 'Tis not in our open, exposed deeds that we so much need the still voice of the silent monitor, as in the small, secret, every-day acts of our life.

FOR THE FAIR SEX.

Fashion Notes.

Beaded trimmings are in great vogue.

Some of the new suits are flounced to the waist.

Everything odd, everything quaint is considered stylish.

The fashionable hat of the summer will be a broad-brimmed Tuscan straw.

Mercutio plumes and Prince of Wales tips will be the feathers worn this season.

Jet fringes, passementerie and the new "blackberry buttons" of fine jet are used on rich black dresses.

For full-dress bodices a new cut is coming in, viz., high on the shoulders and *en cœur* back and front. It is not becoming.

Polonaises are too useful to be set aside, and are being resuscitated in Paris as "over-dresses," often made with paniers.

Black polka-dotted grenadines are made up over black satin, and there are very fine black cashmeres embroidered with polka dots to be made up with plain black cashmere.

Long scarfs of black twilled silk to be worn in mourning are made double, edged with black footing, and are shirred a short distance from the ends to give the effect of tassels.

Embroidery is invading all domains, and only awaits the spring to blossom in full splendor—embroidery in silk or chenille, mixed with beads, embroidery entirely of beads, in various colors, or of one color only.

A narrow knife-plaiting of dark red satin is around the bottom of the skirt of nearly all the French dresses, no matter how light or how dark the material of the dress is; indeed, this gay finish is seen as frequently as were white lace or muslin balayeuses on dresses last year.

Dark blue linen and navy blue Scotch ginghams are made into short dresses with striped claret-colored borders, or else the gayest Turkish red calico with palm-leaf figures is used for the cuffs, collars, pockets, borders and for a full guimpe, which is finished at the top with a frill.

Harper's Bazar says that in New York white petticoats are entirely abandoned, and there are in preparation petticoats of black foulard or Surah, trimmed with narrow flounces which are edged with white lace, or else with lace embroidered with silk or wool in red, rose, blue or orange.

Diagonal bands crossing the front of the underskirt are a favorite way of arranging beaded embroideries. Pearl and satin beads are often mixed in these bands, and the surface is usually quite covered.

One of the new ways of making over worn polonaises is to keep the upper part unaltered, and to replace the lower breadths by draperies of brocade stuff, long enough to hide all of the underskirt except the flounce.

How They Feed a Prima Donna.

This being the age of indiscretions, remarks the *Parisian*, we are almost bound to be indiscreet. For the benefit, therefore, of future cantatrices we will reveal la Patti's diet. When she wakes in bed in the morning she drinks a cup of chocolate. This habit is invariable. On days when she has not to sing she eats heavily of underdone meat. She has, too, a strong liking for a certain garlic soup, which has been invented especially for her by an ingenious cook. On days when she sings la Patti breakfasts at eleven on eggs and meat, with Bordeaux wine and seltzer water. This is the only serious meal she eats until after the performance, when she sups. On her singing days la Patti does not dine. After breakfast she retires to her room and sleeps for a couple of hours. About four o'clock she dresses, takes a ride, then returns home and practices at the piano for an hour. Before going to the theater she drinks a clear consomme. This hygienic system is scrupulously observed by la Patti. We may add another detail. She never opens her mouth until she has taken her chocolate; then she tries her voice by calling Caro, her chambermaid, with all her might.

Leech Culture.

Some of the English papers have been recently exercised in regard to a highly-wrought description by Ouida, the sensation novelist, of the manner in which the culture of leeches is carried on upon the vast *hirudo* plantations, in the vicinity of Bordeaux, France. It is a familiar fact to travelers that the mouth of the Garonne lies in the midst of many square miles of marsh and swamp, which are appropriated to the raising of leeches for the market. The point of Ouida's story is, that the owners of these plantations consume nearly all the disabled, diseased and broken-down horses in France as food for those voracious little creatures, but, to enforce this point, she draws a very hideous picture of the struggles of the doomed animal, covered with thousands of anneilds, terrified, writhing, shuddering, frantic, until, finally, the dozziness of exsanguination supervenes, and the victim sinks exhausted. To one who is familiar with leech culture and with the habits of these slimy little creatures, the suspicion that the popular novelist is either quizzing the public, or has been injudiciously quizzed, is naturally arises; for it is a pretty well ascertained fact that the mode of taking them for the market, after they have arrived at the standard growth, is by riding horses into the swamp or marsh, and then transferring the crop from the legs of the animal to which they cling, to jars or receptacles prepared to receive them. In Sweden, which produces the best leeches in the market, the taking is done to a considerable extent by boys and men who wade into the marshes and shallow water bare-legged, and return clothed with the shining product. It is true that horses are sometimes used in Sweden for this purpose, and usually, perhaps, in France; but this is a very different thing from feeding leeches with living animals, which would be a sheer waste of nutriment. There are leech plantations in America, but our product (the *hirudo decora*) is by no means as valuable for commercial purposes as the Swedish. About a quarter of an ounce of blood is reputed to be all that the *hirudo decora* can ordinarily carry, while a large Swedish leech may take half or two-thirds of an ounce, and it is asserted by competent observers that very large ones have been known to appropriate a full ounce before relaying their hold. The German physicians are, it is said, in the habit of improving the capacity of the leech, or, rather, of prolonging its sucktorial function by a very simple process. Before, or immediately after, the animal has secured a good hold upon the surface to be relieved, the economical practitioner clips off its tail with a pair of surgeon's scissors, and the result is that the blood taken in by the eager animal is disgorged as fast as it is appropriated, and it is made to act as a drainage tube as well as a suction pump.

The Czar and the Victims of the Winter Palace Explosion.

In the church of the military hospital, at St. Petersburg, a requiem mass was celebrated in memory of the soldiers killed by the recent explosion in the Winter palace. Side by side stood the ten plain white coffins. Toward the close of the requiem the emperor arrived, accompanied by the czarevitch and the Grand Dukes Vladimir and Serge. During the singing of the "Eternal Memory" the czar fell on his knees. Then he summoned to him the officers who were on duty in the palace on the fatal day, thanked them warmly, for their loyal fulfillment of their duties, and congratulated them on their narrow escape. Pointing to the ten coffins, he said, in a bitter tone: "This reminds me of the last campaign." Then the czar visited the wounded soldiers, the surviving victims of the explosion in the palace, and spoke kindly to each one of them.

On the next day, after mass, the burial of the ten bodies took place. The burial procession was honored by the presence of the Grand Duke Constantine, accompanied by his son, Governor-General Gourko, Prince Imeretensky, General Zouroff, and a large number of generals, officers and soldiers. This is the first instance on record of the bodies of private soldiers being carried to the grave by officers of the highest rank. The first coffin was borne by Prince Souvoroff-Rimniksky, Count Vorontzoff-Dashikoff, two generals and two colonels. All the coffins were decorated with wreaths sent by the Grand Duchess Alexandra Josephovna. The bodies of the ten soldiers were buried in one grave, over which will soon be erected a monument.—*Paris Golos.*

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF EMPIRE.

The Progress Made by Russia Since the Present Czar's Accession to the Throne—An Interesting Summary.

Referring to the recent twenty-fifth anniversary of the Czar Alexander's accession to the throne of Russia, a New York paper says:

The opening of the reign which has just completed its twenty-fifth year was the gloomiest period of Russian history; but it was also the most profitable. "We owe gratitude," says the Moscow *Gazette*, "even to England herself, for her blows shattered the pernicious system that was destroying us, opened our eyes to the real state of our internal strength, and cleared the way for all the reforms now in progress." This is no exaggeration. Russia has made more real progress since the accession of Alexander II. than during the whole preceding century. In 1855 she had only 419 miles of railway; she has now upward of 10,000. In 1855 only three cities in the whole empire—viz., St. Petersburg, Moscow and Odessa—were even tolerably paved or lighted; whereas, now every leading provincial town is well off in both respects, and the new St. Petersburg gas company is one of the most flourishing in the empire. In 1855 the total number of factories in European Russia was 17,536, representing a yearly value of 350,000,000 rubles ($262,500,000.) By 1867—the half-way point of the present reign—23,721 factories were at work, with an annual yield of 500,000,000 rubles, and both figures are now considerably higher. The iniquities of the legal system of that day, carried on according to the obsolete forms of mediæval law, were almost too monstrous for belief; whereas, now trial by jury, introduced in 1863, is a national institution. The Russian soldier's term of service then extended over twenty-five years, whereas it is now limited to seven. Various cruel and degrading punishments, than in constant use in the imperial army, are now almost abolished, only one man having "run the gantlet" in St. Petersburg since 1861. The 23,000,000 peasants who were slaves in 1855 are now freemen, and not a few of them have become land-owners or thriving merchants. Even in actual territory, Russia has gained considerable. In Europe she has acquired Southern Bessarabia. In Asia Minor she has annexed part of Northern Armenia. In Central Asia she has won a territory as large as France, while her Siberian frontier has been advanced nearly a 1,000 miles at the expense of China, and the important island of Saghalin, extorted from Japan.

But, apart from all this, Russia has achieved a step which will go far to surpass her greatest want. She has formed, not indeed a substantial middle class, but that which will be the germ of such a class, and which is expanding every year. This is the one thing lacking to insure the stability of the empire. Of the 55,000,000 inhabitants contained by Russia proper in 1861, 29,000,000 were free peasants and 23,000,000 serfs, leaving only 1,000,000 nobles, 500,000 burgesses, and 650,000 priests to form the counterbalancing minority. The emancipation of that year, by destroying the power of the nobility, while that of the people was still non-existent, placed Russia in the position of a state with its upper class gone, its lower class not yet come and no middle class at all. The same sluggish ignorance which makes the Russian "mujik" proof against the arts of modification, renders him absolutely useless to the political life of his country. What is wanted is a reasoning, not a reasonless, obedience. Russia's safety lies in the creation of a class of practical and well-to-do men of business, for whom order implies prosperity, and disorder absolute ruin. The existence of such a class in France made the commotion of 1830 short and comparatively bloodless, rendered abortive the attempted outbreak of 1832, and tided over the great political crisis of 1878-9 without any outbreak at all; and the remedy which has succeeded in Paris may be trusted not to fail in St. Petersburg.

Saving a Train.

On Sunday evening last an incident occurred on the Western railroad that will cause surprise wherever it is spoken of. The train was within thirty miles of Montgomery, running at a rapid rate, all unconscious of danger. The engineer spied a white handkerchief on a pole, fluttering in the road some distance up the track. On getting nearer he discovered it was some one waving the down train. The shrill whistle was sounded, brakes put on and the train brought to a standstill. The heads of the passengers were popping out of the windows, inquiring what the trouble was, no station being near.

The conductor came out, and seeing a tramp was the one who had caused the train to stop, inquired in probably a rather angry manner what was wanted. This man, who belonged to a class almost universally despised and subjected to cuffs and kicks, astonished the conductor by informing him that about eighteen inches of rail was broken out a short distance further on. The broken place was repaired, the train about to move off, when the conductor saw the tramp standing on the roadside, asked:

"Where do you want to go?"

The tramp replied:

"To Pensacola."

"Then," said the conductor, "why don't you get on the train?"

The reply was:

"Because I have no money."

The conductor told him to get aboard, that he would take him to Montgomery. On arriving in the city the fact was reported to the general manager of the road, who asked the man which he would have, money or work. The man answered he would rather have employment. A position was at once given him. At last accounts he was at work and doing well.—*Columbus (Ga.) Enquirer.*

How They Tried to Kill a Play.

A writer in *London Society* says: The upper gallery used to be allotted gratis to the servants of the gentlemen in the boxes. When James Townley's farce, "High Life Below Stairs," was first produced in Edinburg, the indignation of the gentlemen's servants was unbounded. They were furious at this clever and caustic satire of their own affectations, and, after meeting in solemn conclave, resolved, with an impudence which throws all the impertinence of nineteenth-century flunkeyism into the shade, that the piece should not be performed again. Accordingly upon the second night of its being announced in the bills as a part of the entertainment, Mr. Love, one of the managers, came upon the stage and read a letter containing the most violent threats, not against the actors and the house, if the management should dare to put the piece upon the boards again. Notwithstanding this audacious attempt at terrorism, the curtain rose on "High Life Below Stairs." The farce had no sooner begun than a solid phalanx of footmen made an attack upon the stage. In vain their masters roared at them to stand back and leave the stage. The "liveried menials" flatly refused. The masters drew their swords and rushed at them. The footmen stoutly opposed their oaken cudgels to the steel blades; and it was not till there had been a desperate struggle and some serious wounds had been given and received, that the gentlemen proved victorious and drove the servants from the field. Whether they were all discharged by their masters or not, I am unable to say; but, at any rate, they forfeited their right to free admission to the upper gallery, and it was never again restored to them. From that time to this they have had to content themselves with smoking and tippling in taverns, while their betters are enjoying the play.

Recent Famines.

Famines like that devastating Ireland have been lamentably frequent during the last few years. In 1869 absolute starvation prevailed for several months throughout Finland and along the Baltic seaboard, aggravated by a frost of unexampled severity, which destroyed hundreds of those who made for the towns in quest of relief. In 1871 a yet more terrible famine decimated the population of Northwestern China, many of the sufferers being driven to gnaw the bark from the trees and even to devour the bodies of the dead. Similar horrors were enacted on a smaller scale in Eastern Russia during the great drought of 1873. The failure of the Bengal rice crop which threw all India into a state of nineteenth-century flunkeyism into the shade, that the piece should not be performed again. Accordingly upon the second night of its being announced in the bills as a part of the entertainment, Mr. Love, one of the managers, came upon the stage and read a letter containing the most violent threats, not against the actors and the house, if the management should dare to put the piece upon the boards again. Notwithstanding this audacious attempt at terrorism, the curtain rose on "High Life Below Stairs." The farce had no sooner begun than a solid phalanx of footmen made an attack upon the stage. In vain their masters roared at them to stand back and leave the stage. The "liveried menials" flatly refused. The masters drew their swords and rushed at them. The footmen stoutly opposed their oaken cudgels to the steel blades; and it was not till there had been a desperate struggle and some serious wounds had been given and received, that the gentlemen proved victorious and drove the servants from the field. Whether they were all discharged by their masters or not, I am unable to say; but, at any rate, they forfeited their right to free admission to the upper gallery, and it was never again restored to them. From that time to this they have had to content themselves with smoking and tippling in taverns, while their betters are enjoying the play.

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NEWS EPITOME.

Eastern and Middle States.

The American Institute Farmers' Club celebrated its thirty-seventh anniversary a few days ago in New York by listening to a number of interesting addresses on agricultural topics.

William D. Hilton, a prominent citizen of Providence, R. I., has confessed to issuing forged paper amounting to about $80,000.

The trial of Samuel J. Tilden's income tax suit, begun by the government in 1876, has been placed on the calendar for the April term of the United States district court in New York, and a number of subpœnas have been served, including one on Mr. Tilden himself.

St. Patrick's day was celebrated in New York this year by a small parade.

The Maine legislative committee on the counting-out action of ex-Governor Garcelon and his council, after investigation, has made a report charging that alterations and forgeries were made in the returns of the election, all of which acts were a part of a premeditated plan to secure a Fusion governor and legislature, and that the governor and his council must have been parties to it.

A passenger train stopped at Anville, Pa., the other night and a number of passengers alighted and stood on an adjoining track, when the western bound express passed through the crowd killing Michael Bachman and severely injuring four other men.

Cyrus W. Field has resigned his position as president of the New York Elevated Railroad company and as president of the Wabash, Pacific & St. Louis Railroad company for the purpose of taking a pleasure trip around the world.

The Rhode Island Republican State convention, in session at Providence, nominated a ticket headed by Alfred H. Littlefield for governor, and appointed delegates to the national convention at Chicago.

The New York *Herald* Irish famine relief fund has reached $300,000. The total amount contributed so far by America for the famine-stricken people of Ireland is estimated at over $1,000,000.

The Pennsylvania Democratic State convention for the selection of delegates to the national convention at Cincinnati will be held in Harrisburg, April 28.

William B. Pierson was hanged at Geneseo, N. Y., for the murder by poison of L. B. Withey at Avon in 1877. Shortly after Withey's death Pierson, who already had a wife and five children, eloped with his victim's wife. Mrs. Withey was tried in 1878 as principal in the crime, but was acquitted. Pierson, who was a fine-looking man, weighing nearly 200 pounds, protested his innocence to the last.

The New Hampshire Democratic convention for the selection of delegates to Cincinnati will be held May 8 at Concord.

The building in Boston occupied by the morning *Journal* was partially destroyed by fire a few nights ago while the editors and compositors were at work getting out next day's paper. With the help of other papers the *Journal* managed to issue a small sheet next morning. The loss to the *Journal* was about $40,000.

During a public school entertainment at the public hall in Lincoln, Pa., part of the flooring suddenly gave away, precipitating about 150 persons to the floor below. About thirty persons were injured more or less seriously.

Troy, N. Y., has had a three hundred thousand dollar fire, the flames destroying a large building occupied by several shirt and collar manufacturers.

At the Rhode Island Democratic State convention, held in Providence, a ticket headed by Horace M. Kimball for governor was nominated and delegates to the national convention at Cincinnati were chosen.

Many of the striking piano-makers of New York have gone to work, the employers withdrawing their demand that their employees refrain from joining the union.

Western and Southern States.

The San Francisco police judge before whom Denis Kearney was arraigned on the charge of using language (at a meeting of workingmen) designed to provoke a breach of the peace, sentenced him to six months' imprisonment and to pay a fine of $1,000. Kearney at once filed an appeal to the superior court and gave bonds in the sum of $3,000.

Seventy-three delegates, representing every county, were present at the Maryland Greenback convention, held in Baltimore. It was decided that twelve delegates from the congressional districts and four at large be sent to represent the State at the national convention in Chicago, to act with the majority there.

The Missouri Democratic convention for the election of delegates to the national convention will be held at Moberly on May 26, and the convention for the nomination of State officers will be held at Jefferson City on July 21.

The lower branch of the Kentucky legislature by a vote refused to give Henry Ward Beecher the use of the legislative hall for the purpose of making an address.

Captain Bogardus, a famous marksman, has been beaten at a pigeon match by F. Erb, a boy of St. Joseph, Mo., by a score of ninety-three to eighty-three.

Heavy rains have caused many rivers in the South to overflow their banks, and in some cases material damage to property has been done.

About seventy-five disguised men surrounded the jail at Winchester, Ill., compelled the jailer to give up his keys, entered the cell of a man named Fields, imprisoned for killing one James Padgett, and shot him dead.

The Southern Pacific railroad has been completed as far as Tucson, Arizona.

In St. Louis Conrad Hieman, who had been drinking to excess, killed his wife and stabbed fatally the infant that was in her arms. Hieman also stabbed his brother in the back and attempted to kill his nephew, whom he wounded, but the boy escaped by outrunning the maniac. Hieman was arrested.

The Illinois Democratic State convention for the nomination of a gubernatorial ticket and the selection of delegates to the national convention has been called for Springfield, June 10.

Two young men, a lawyer and a traveling salesman, recently fought a duel in Brunswick county, Va. They exchanged one shot, the salesman receiving a wound in his right arm. Immediately after the duel a deputy constable, armed with a warrant, arrested both parties. The cause of the meeting was a political dispute.

Samuel H. Myers was hanged at Dallas, Texas, for murdering his mother-in-law in 1877.

Edward C. Palmer, president of the suspended Louisiana savings bank, of New Orleans, found guilty of misappropriating $47,000 of the institution's funds, has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment at hard labor.

Clarence Davis, a bigamist with thirteen wives, tried to commit suicide in a Chicago jail, to which his many marriages had brought him, but was prevented.

The United States circuit court in San Francisco has decided that the law forbidding the employment of Chinese by corporations is unconstitutional.

From Washington.

The Senate committee on privileges and elections has agreed by a strict party vote upon resolutions declaring that Mr. Spofford and not Mr. Kellogg is entitled to a seat in the Senate from Louisiana.

The House committee on claims has unanimously adopted a report favoring an appropriation of $50,000 to satisfy the claims of General Sutter, the discoverer of gold in California.

The President has signed the order dismissing Major Keno, recently found guilty by a court martial of conduct unbecoming an officer, from the army.

Washington circles have been considerably stirred by the arrival from Peru, where he had been sojourning as United States minister, of ex-Senator Christiancy, of Michigan, and the announcement that he had returned to the United States to sue for divorce from his wife. It will be remembered that a few years ago Minister Christiancy, who is an old man with grown-up children by a former wife, was married to Miss Lugenbeel, a beautiful young lady employed in the treasury department. Minister Christiancy now charges that his wife has proven unfaithful to her marriage vows. In rejoinder Mrs. Christiancy declares her husband's charge to be false, and that he has ill-treated her, on several occasions knocking her down before third parties, pinching and slapping her.

The following unusually large list of consular nominations and changes has been sent to the Senate, subject to its action: Bret Hart, of California, now commercial agent at Crefeld, is promoted to be consul at Glasgow; Joseph S. Potter, of Massachusetts, now consul at Stuttgart, to be consul at Crefeld; George L. Catlin, of New Jersey, now commercial agent at La Rochelle, to be consul at Stuttgart; Paul Lange, of Iowa, to be consul at La Rochelle; William L. Scruggs, of Georgia, now consul at Chin Kiang, to be consul at Canton, in place of Lincoln, resigned; Joseph C. A. Wingate, of New Hampshire, for many years consul at Swatow, to be consul at Soo Chow; Willie P. Mangan, of North Carolina, now consul at Nagasaka, to be consul at Tien Tsin, in place of Owen N. Denny, who has been promoted to be consul-general at Shanghai; John A. Halderman, of Kansas, to be consul at Bangkok; William T. Rice, of Massachusetts, who served for several years at La Spezzia, to be consul at Leghorn; Thomas T. Prentiss, of Michigan, now consul at Malle, is promoted to be consul at Port Louis, Mauritius; Henry C. Marsden, now consul at Port Louis, to be consul at Malaga; Victor Thompson, of Mississippi, to be consul at St. Thomas; Alexander C. Jones, of West Virginia, to be consul of Nagasaki; B. Odell Duncan, of South Carolina, now consul at Naples is promoted to be consul at Smyrna; Henry A. Conant, of Michigan, to be consul at Naples.

The Senate committee on commerce decided to report adversely on the nomination of A. C. Wells, son of J. Madison Wells, to be surveyor of customs for New Orleans.

General Charles Adams has been nominated as minister resident and consul-general to Bolivia.

The House committee on Indian affairs has examined the Ute chief Ouray and his wife in regard to the Meeker massacre, but failed to obtain any satisfactory information from them.

J. M. Goodwin has presented to the House interoceanic committee his plan for an Atlantic-Pacific ship railway. Instead of a cradle, as advocated by Eads (and which he asserts would make a vessel unseaworthy), he proposes a caisson with water to float the largest ship, which, with the appropriate railroad, would cost only $67,000,000.

Foreign News.

The postoffice at Cape Town, South Africa, has been robbed of diamonds that were awaiting shipment by mail and were valued at $375,000.

Gonzales, who attempted the life of the King of Spain, has been sentenced to death.

James Redpath, the New York *Tribune* correspondent in Ireland, reports that hundreds of families have pawned or sold their clothing and household effects to get food, and have nothing of their own except, as the frequent saying is, "the daylight, the water, and a house full of hungry children." The present distress is ascribed to four causes—wet seasons, decline in the value of stock and produce, the land system, and the credit system which has grown up in the past thirty years.

At a meeting of the Irish land league in Dublin a letter from Mr. Charles Parnell was read, declaring that the general verdict of American opinion throughout the United States is overwhelmingly in favor of a radical change in the Irish land system.

China is said to be preparing actively for war with Russia. European arms have been bought for her troops and they are constantly drilled in European tactics.

The entire Uruguayan ministry has resigned.

A notable sale of paintings and other art treasures belonging to Prince Demidoff, an eccentric Russian nobleman, has just taken place in Paris. The sale of paintings by old Flemish and Dutch masters lasted three days, and in many instances small fortunes were paid for single pictures. The total price received for them was $537,365, the highest sum paid for a single painting, being $42,000 for Hobbema's landscape, called "The Windmill." The next highest price paid was $30,000 for Antony Van'Dyck's "Portrait of Anne Cavendish, Lady Rich."

The refusal of the French government to give up one Hartman, charged with assisting in the attempt to assassinate the czar at Moscow, has caused much disappointment in Russia, and a rupture of diplomatic relations between the two countries is threatened.

Prince Bismarck has presented in the German reichstag a paper on emigration from Germany during 1879, showing that 33,327 persons, two-thirds of whom were males, emigrated last year to the United States and British North America.

While the remains of the late Recorder Sexton, of Montreal, were lying in state the drapery near the catafalque caught fire from some burning tapers, and the interior of the house was completely gutted. Several women in the house had to be lowered from an upper story, fifty feet from the ground, in their night clothes by means of a rope. The corpse was also saved from unpremeditated cremation.

The American horse Parole has just won another victory on an English track, co