

Is She Biding?

Is she biding where eternal summer smiles upon the seas, And the snowy orange blossoms ever drape the shelly strand?

RODNEY BOYD'S MISTAKE.

"Yes, I'm dying, nephew; I can live but a few hours at the farthest."

"Oh, uncle!" gasped Rodney Boyd, in a choking voice, raising his handkerchief to his face, but more to hide the flash of joy in the keen gray eyes than the tears, which no amount of effort could bring to them.

"Ever since I have been lying here," said the old man, feebly, "and I knew that I must die, I have thought much of your father. We were boys together, and though we didn't agree very well when we grew up, that ought not to make me unjust to his son."

Here the speaker was interrupted by a violent fit of coughing.

"I did not intend to leave all my property to Mary," he resumed, "Mary is a good girl, and has been like a daughter to me; but I've been thinking that I ought not to leave it away from my own kin. Not that I've made some provision for her, of course. You understand, nephew, that she is to have a home here until she marries."

"Set your mind at rest, my dear uncle; she shall be treated by me, in every respect, as if she was my own cousin."

"Thank you, nephew; I'm glad you feel so. Mary has been as kind to me as any daughter could be, and I want her made comfortable."

"You'll find the will in the middle drawer of the desk yonder. You'll see that I've given the larger part to you. I did think of giving you Mary's portion and leaving the rest to her, but I changed my mind."

Here the old man was seized with another fit of coughing, so severe that Mary, hearing him, came in from below, whither she had gone to prepare some refreshment for the invalid.

Mary was a fair, pleasant-looking girl of about eighteen, with soft, blue eyes and lustrous brown hair, drawn smoothly away from the white forehead.

The red lips looked as if they might dimple into smiles, under circumstances more favorable to calling them forth, but now the face wore a weary anxious look, as she bent over her form, who had been the only friend and protector of her orphaned childhood, but who was soon to leave her.

The invalid might have noticed this, for as soon as he was easier he said: "You had better go and lie down, Mary, my dear. You must be completely worn out. Rodney, here, will stay with me the rest of the night, and it is my request that you do so, Miss Mary," urged the man alluded to, in his oldest and smoothest manner. "I shall consider it a privilege to watch by my uncle while you obtain the rest that you so evidently need."

Doubtful as to whether she would be able to endure the fatigue of watching another night, Mary complied, though she did so reluctantly, for she had an instinctive distrust of Rodney Boyd, which she was unable to reason away or explain.

Rodney Boyd sat in an easy chair before the crackling wood fire—for nothing would suit old Simon Boyd but the open fire-place, around which he used to gather in his happy boyhood.

His charge had been quiet for the last few hours, apparently in light slumber.

Rodney's thoughts were busy. He thought over what he would do with the money for which he had been so long waiting and scheming.

He glanced contemptuously around on the old-fashioned furniture, every article of which was so dear to his niece's heart.

"I'll never do for me!" he muttered. "I'll sell it off—and the old house, too. That will be a good way to get rid of the girl, and I'll do it."

Then his thoughts reverted to the will, with a dissatisfied, uneasy feeling.

"Why did he make one? He was the heir-at-law, and, otherwise, would have inherited all."

He was aroused from these reflections by a groan from his uncle, followed by a sharp rattle.

On reaching the bedside he was startled by the change in his countenance.

turned to the door. "I don't think you need be in a hurry to see this house, or yet the one that shelters the faithful old man, who has grown gray in your uncle's service."

As the reader will readily surmise, Mary did not teach the school at the "Corners," neither were Jameson and his wife ousted from their comfortable home.

As for the heir-at-law, he was obliged to swallow, silently, his disappointment and chagrin; not even daring to complain.

Like many another, Rodney Boyd, in grasping for more, had lost all.

MARY'S MATCHING FINE DIAMONDS.

The Difficulty of Getting Together a Satisfactory Diamond Necklace.

A fashionable-looking gentleman entered a well-known jewelry store one day recently in a great hurry.

"I want," he said, with some hesitation, "a diamond earring to match this one. I must have it by to-morrow without fail, as the pair is intended for a birthday present. I brought this one, and its mate from Europe last week, and one was either lost or stolen."

The proprietor looked at the earring critically and smiled.

"You ask what is impossible," he said. "That is a very fine diamond and cannot be matched in weight and color without great care, if at all. I might have to look at a thousand stones before I could get one like it, and I might not be able to get one without having it cut to order. There is not a jeweler in the world who can match a stone like that at a day's notice, unless he stumbled on it."

The customer finally concluded to buy another pair of ear-rings and have the diamond he had put into a stud.

"That stone," said the jeweler, after the customer had gone, holding up the solitary earring so that it flashed a dozen brilliant colors, "is what is known to the trade as fancy fine. It is a pure blue white stone and of great value. I should say it was worth about \$400 a carat. To match a stone of that quality is very difficult. Although within one hour I can examine 1,000,000 worth of diamonds, I would not find one of the same weight, color and cut as this one. Formerly, if a jeweler had a customer who was desirous of matching a diamond of this quality he would ransack the jewelry stores all over the world in order to obtain what he wanted. Even the jewelry stores of to-day are much higher to the customer. Nowadays jewelers prefer to cut a stone to order. It is not always certain even then that the jewels will be exactly alike. One cannot always judge to a fraction of a carat what the rough stone will weigh after it is cut."

"With the less valuable diamonds this difficulty is not so great. While the supply of fancy fine diamonds in this country is limited, there are plenty of the poorer quality of stones. In fact, the supply of the diamonds all over the world is limited."

"The most difficult thing for a jeweler to obtain is a necklace of fine diamonds. To begin with, he takes one large diamond. After that all the diamonds in the necklace must come in pairs, one on each side. The jeweler must be even more careful about these than he would have to be if they were intended for ear-rings. In the latter case the jewels are separate, and a trifling fault might pass undetected. But in a necklace, where the jewels are in one piece, the slightest difference in color would not pass unnoticed even by an amateur. A stone of a yellow shade would look like a topaz beside a white diamond. Even the slightest difference in shape would be plain, and put the necklace around the throat of a woman in full dress and every fault would become doubly pronounced."

"It sometimes takes a jeweler years to make a perfect necklace of fine diamonds. After it is begun there are a great many changes before it is finished. The work of gathering the diamonds for a first-class necklace does not pay. The profit on diamonds is only 10 per cent; at least that is all that a reputable dealer charges."

"A customer once came to us and asked us to make him a diamond necklace not to exceed \$10,000 in price. That is, of course, a small price for a necklace of this quality. It took us nearly a year to get it satisfactory, and after counting the time and worry lost in the work, we found that our profit was less than 8 per cent. That sort of thing does not pay."

"We are now engaged in making a necklace that will cost \$25,000. I have standing orders with leading diamond merchants for a certain class of diamonds for this necklace. It is intended for a prominent Chicago society lady. We have about one-half the diamonds necessary. Before it is finished, however, I think it probable that the many changes necessary to get it satisfactory will compel us to lay aside half of the diamonds now selected."

"I have made a hundred changes in arranging the diamonds for a single necklace. With any other jewels this extreme care would be unnecessary, as defects or differences are not noticed in them that would be glaringly apparent in diamonds."

"One difficulty, which is equal in the amount of trouble it gives us to all the others put together, is the eyesight of our customers. Being in a critical frame of mind when they purchase diamonds, they see defects which do not exist, and it is hard to convince them that they are mistaken. The eyesight has to be educated in studying diamonds, and we often spend hours in explaining and showing the beauties of diamonds to customers. Some will insist that two diamonds are mates when they are as unlike as a mulatto and a white man in color."

"Little Boys' Suits. Little boys wear a good many plush suits and fancy sailor suits. Some of the newest of the latter are made in plush and velvet, the collars and cuffs bordered with gold-colored silk, not bullion gold, which is apt to tarnish, and the effect is the same; the lanyard also is of gold-colored cord. Little smart worsted suits on the same plan are inexpensive and good-looking. Satin broadcloth full vests are now introduced in lieu of waistcoats to plush suits."

Here Squire Wimple took the instrument in question, duly signed and attested, from his coat pocket.

"So, on whole," he added, as he

Sugar Among the Ancients.

It seems almost impossible to imagine life without sugar, so absolutely essential is its use to the comfort of living.

There is no mention of sugar among the early Greeks and Romans, although sugar of "sweet" cane was made known by the conquests of Alexander the Great, whose admiral, Nearchus, found it in the East Indies. It is mentioned as a remedial agent a few years before the birth of Christ—a honey called saccharon, having the appearance of salt."

It is known, also, that Galen often prescribed it as a medicine. The juice of the sugar cane was used by some of the oriental nations as an intoxicating drink. The Arabians used sugar in large quantities, and it is related that at the marriage of Caliph Mas-kadri Benritsala, 80,000 pounds of the sugar were required to prepare the comfits and ornamental sweets for the wedding banquet at Bagdad.

Sugar was introduced into Europe by the crusaders. In 1166 the king of Sicily gave the monks of St. Benedict's cloister a mill for expressing the juice from the cane, and granted them the right of manufacture and sent them skilled workmen. In Germany, even as late as the end of the seventeenth century, sugar was so costly that only the wealthiest families could afford to use it. In 1745, Marggraf, a celebrated chemist, read a paper before the Berlin academy of sciences concerning the juices of certain native plants, especially the beet, in which was a substance identical with cane sugar. He showed by samples of his own preparation that the manufacture of sugar from the beet was not only possible, but profitable. The chemist's colleagues, however, laughed the project to scorn, saying that sugar was never produced from beets, and it came to naught. When Marggraf died in 1783, it seemed as if his discovery would die with him.

Arched, his pupil, at the close of the century, being director of the academy, found the treatise of his master, and determined to establish a manufactory in Silesia for the production of beet-root sugar. In spite of the energy of the chemist and the assistance of the crown, the project was not successful, although the sugar was perfectly satisfactory. It was not until 1841, nearly 100 years after Marggraf's first essay, that the production of beet sugar was an accomplished fact. At the present time beet sugar is the sugar of Europe. It is scarcely distinguishable from the cane sugar. It is perhaps less brilliantly crystalline, and is by many thought to be sweeter than its Indian rival."

They are situated about eight miles from Mandalay, and are unquestionably very valuable. Indeed, they are the only mines in the world where really valuable rubies are found. There are a few mines in Ceylon; but Ceylon rubies of the true red are very rare, most of them being of the pink topaz color. In Siam, too, rubies are plentiful, but they are of the color of garnets. Within the last twenty years small rubies have gone up about fifty per cent in value, and large ones about 200 per cent. The best rubies come to America. In the British crown jewels there are none of any size and color. So dear are the perfect stones that few can afford to purchase them. The French Rothschilds have a fine collection, so have the Orleans princes, and there are some fine stones among the Russian crown jewels. Very lately, a fine stone was sold to one of the Russian Grand Dukes for about \$35,000.

Nothing certain is known about the Burmah ruby mines. They are supposed to consist of the beds of old rivers that have dried up, because the stones always have a water-worn appearance. The only Europeans that have ever visited them are a Frenchman and an Italian, who were in the service of King Theebaw. So far as is known, they are worked by the villagers upon a curious system. All stones below twenty-one "rithis" in weight (twenty-one "rithis" are equivalent to twenty-one carats—i. e., about one-seventh of an ounce troy) belong to the villagers, all above to the crown. A perfect specimen ruby of twenty-one "rithis" would be worth \$50,000, a moderately good one \$5,000, and an inferior one about \$250.

Another instance of the superstitious nature of French peasants has just been exemplified by a crime which was committed in Brittany. There was a family consisting of a widow named Jallu, with her two sons and two daughters; and the sons who were millers, had heard somebody say that one of their sisters, the eldest, was possessed by the devil. Thinking that this terrible supposition, which they implicitly believed, would bring ill-luck to the mill, the two men resolved to shield themselves from the demonic influence of their sister by murdering her. The neighbors, who had some apprehension of the catastrophe, went to the mill, but found their entrance barred by the one of the Jallus, who stood with his younger sister at the door, both brandishing hatchets with which they threatened to murder any one who came near them. The two were, however, seized and overpowered after a long and dangerous struggle, during which they behaved like maniacs. In the interior of the mill house was found the body of Esther Jallu, the eldest sister, who was alleged by her relatives to be possessed with the demon pride. The woman was put to the most atrocious torture, having been pierced in various parts of the body by a sharp instrument. During her agony her mother and sister prayed by her side in order to exercise the devil. All the members of the Jallu family have been placed in an asylum.

—A circular of brown serge is lined with dark-red India silk. The high collar has a delicate design of poppies and wheat ears embroidered upon it.

—Thompson Brothers, of Malone, N. Y., have bought from Highglenn Farm, Lee, Mass., the bay colt Athlete, foaled 1885, by Alcantara, dam by Almont.

FASHION NOTES.

—A novelty in dress buttons are large balls of wood showing the grain, stained, highly polished, and mounted on steel eyes.

—Wide low collars, exposing the throat, are to be worn, and it is predicted that high collars and full ruffles are soon to be abandoned.

—A tiny capote of jetted velvet is trimmed with a large fan of ashes of roses velvet and a black aigrette. The strings are of black velvet.

—Bodices of velvet have panels cut in one with them, and form an exceedingly handsome combination with striped wool skirts and drapery.

—Metal bead and mother-of-pearl and carved wood anchors, pins and fancy heads, brooches, buckles and ornaments are used to excess in millinery.

—Open-work silk with herring-bone effects has lines of tiny silk dots. A cream ground has dots of blue, and a pink ground dots of golden yellow and white.

—Pelisses of gray plush, lined with pink, are coming in vogue for babies' wear. The hood must match the pelisse and be tied with soft pink-satin strings.

—A Paris correspondent writes that white corduroy is used for simple home costumes; and combined with plain white woolen material it is used for tea-gowns.

—A rich and refined silk fabric has lace and matelasse alternating. In the thick stripe is a diamond, outlined by a satin weave, thus presenting three tones of the color produced by the weaving.

—There is a revolt against small birds and feathers of the same for millinery ornaments among those ladies who wish to put a stop to the slaughter of the forest birds of America, and the whole world.

—One of the most popular winter wraps for ladies bids fair to be the long redingote or Newmarket, of seal or seal plush, cut to resemble the old French surtout, but with no effort to make it masculine or strong-minded in effect.

—Soft woollens are greatly liked, and many of the most elegant costumes are made of them. They are combined with velvet and plush, which come in brocade plaids and stripes. Sometimes a stripe of the wool material is alternated with one of bright-colored plush.

—There are but few actual novelties in outside garments. Of course sealskin coats are first in public favor. After this there are all sorts of dressy and elegant creations, ranging from elaborate mantles that rival sealskin in cost to the plain, trim jacket that sells for \$6 to \$8.

—Children's Fancy Dresses. But there are quite as many fancy dances for children as others, and then the question of dress is all the more perplexing. I will therefore describe some of the newest notions under this head. Red Riding Hood is not a new character, but I think it is being rendered in somewhat new fashion, with a red velvet skirt bordered with a band of darker shade; red low bodice, coming somewhat high on the shoulders, opening in front to show narrow folds of soft calico, over which the bodice is laced with red cord; there are square white revers of the shoulder, like a turn-down collar; the sleeves puffed to elbow. Auvergnate wears suede shoes, blue stockings, a striped black and white cotton petticoat, a red velvet bibbed apron, with a bunch of flowers at one side; a black velvet laced bodice, a ruche at the throat, a satin cap, with velvet bands, something like a bonnet without strings. Diablotine—Red stockings, red short petticoat, with small black rips upon it; low red bodice, black over-skirt, black cap, with two standing horns. Polly is somewhat newly rendered in blue and gray. The stockings are blue; the high boots gray, with points and bells dropping from them; the tunic and skirt are cut in curious blemished points, a bell at each; the high, square bodice is treated much the same, showing a plaited chemisette above; a Phrygian cap of the two colors; a fool's bauble carried in the hand complete the costume. Soubrette—A costume of red, white and blue cotton, with square bodice, laced stomacher, bunched-up tunic, small muslin cap; the novelty in this is the admixture of three colors that any original style in the make. The ambulance nurse has always been a favorite dress, but black is not appropriate for children, so costumes are making it in light fawn tones and dark emerald green. A magician wears a wide crimson velvet coat, bordered with black, over a white princess front, covered with gold stars and crescents, the bodice cut square at the neck, large sleeves with large loose cuff of white satin with gold bands, high-pointed red velvet cap, covered with gold stars, a spangled tulle veil floating from the top. A queen's dress, made for Lady Mary Phipps' little daughter, is worth describing. A pale pink underskirt, edged with rows of silver braid, a train caught up on one side bordered with ermine, the bodice a close-fitting cote hardie of silver cloth over pink, a pink cloak falling from the shoulder secured in the usual way with silver clasps. There is a great improvement in the fancy dresses for boys. I call the following as new: Woodland Elf, a close-fitting dress of green, with high green boots, having tassels at the sides; a gray pointed collar and a cap formed like a flower with the stalk upward in the center. A Watteau gardener wears white silk stockings, yellow velvet coat, cocked hat and laced ruff. Father Christmas appears in new guise, borrowed from German sources. He wears a brown suit, the long, straight coat bordered with swansdown, the hood to match, a Christmas tree in the hand. Jockeys are much in favor, wearing suits of two colors, which are carefully chosen if the family are in any way associated with racing. A French gardener wears sabots, his stockings cross-gartered, a blue blouse, lace collar and red sash.

—The further importation of horses from Montreal into Vermont has been prohibited on account of the prevalence of glanders among the horses in Montreal.

—Robert Steel last week purchased from Charles Backman the b. m. Muriel, foaled 1870, by Kentucky Prince, a son of Clark Chief, dam Bess, by Hambletonian.

—The stock sold from Woodburn Farm in 1886 averaged \$1773. The most recent sales are Karisbad, b. c., foaled 1885, by Lord Russell, to John Depee, of Chicago.

—William Weeks purchased the g. g. Marcus, 2 2/3, for Mr. Drake, of New York. The price was \$3000. Marcus is half brother to Mr. Caddagan's stallion, Bayonne Prince.

—Inspector B was Equitator's biggest winner in 1886, capturing \$38,375 of the \$87,017 credited to Equitator's get, 47 of which were on the turf, running in 458 races and winning 97.

—D. B. Herrington, the new manager of Hudson River Driving Park, Poughkeepsie, announces that two or three trotting meetings will be given during the coming season.

—New York roadman have indulged in several match races to sleighs, but no time was taken. W. E. Parson's gelding, St. Louis, and Harry Williams's s. g., Tommy Lambert each won a race.

—Joseph Gavin, Chester Stock Farm, Chester, N. Y., has sold for \$800, to R. E. Roberts and S. S. Offnut, Georgetown, Ky., his 2-year-old colt Plumstone, by Harry Plummer, dam Bernardsville Maid, by Pickering.

—The chestnut gelding Jennings died recently at Coney Island. He was the property of Mr. W. H. Timmons, and a son of Glen Athol and Lotta, by Hunter's Glencoe, and therefore full brother to the famous Glencoe.

—Manzanita, 2:16; Patron, 2:19; Palo Alto, 2:20; Eagle Bird, 2:21; St. Bel, 2:24; Silverone, 2:24; Greenlander, 2:24; Granby, 2:25; Aquarius, 2:29; and Guitard, 2:29, will be among the crack 4-year-olds on the turf in 1887.

—W. H. Chepe, of the Meadow-thorpe stud, Lexington, Ky., has purchased of Hon. A. Belmont, the chestnut yearling colt, by The Ill-Used, dam Dauntless, by Macaroni, and the chestnut yearling filly, by The Ill-Used, dam Nellie James, by Dollar.

—Samuel Greenburg's trotter Kitty Knox, well known as one of the fastest in the State of Connecticut, dropped dead on the Watertown road, on the 12th inst., while trotting with O. G. Camp's Nutwood, Jr. It is supposed that she ruptured a blood vessel.

—Charles Backman has sold to Thomas Pattern, of New York, the very promising young mare Columbine, by Meredith, dam Refine, by Messenger Duroc; also the chestnut filly Annelia, foaled on May 24th, 1885, by Harold, dam Lady Tilton, by Mambrino Patchen.

—G. Valensin, owner of the 2-year-old stallion Shamrock, that recently made a record of 2:25, has deposited \$500 forfeit for a race with the 2-year-old Palo Alto filly Eda, by Electioneer, mile heat, best three in five, for \$1000 a side, January 22, on Bay District track.

—Abe Rohrbach's pacer, Mike Wilkes, record 2:10, while being exercised at Stillwater, Minn., Tuesday the 13th inst., began to prance and kick and in some way sprained his off hind ankle. Rohrbach fears the horse is permanently injured and will have to be retired from the turf.

HORSE NOTES.

—The further importation of horses from Montreal into Vermont has been prohibited on account of the prevalence of glanders among the horses in Montreal.

—Robert Steel last week purchased from Charles Backman the b. m. Muriel, foaled 1870, by Kentucky Prince, a son of Clark Chief, dam Bess, by Hambletonian.

—The stock sold from Woodburn Farm in 1886 averaged \$1773. The most recent sales are Karisbad, b. c., foaled 1885, by Lord Russell, to John Depee, of Chicago.

—William Weeks purchased the g. g. Marcus, 2 2/3, for Mr. Drake, of New York. The price was \$3000. Marcus is half brother to Mr. Caddagan's stallion, Bayonne Prince.

—Inspector B was Equitator's biggest winner in 1886, capturing \$38,375 of the \$87,017 credited to Equitator's get, 47 of which were on the turf, running in 458 races and winning 97.

—D. B. Herrington, the new manager of Hudson River Driving Park, Poughkeepsie, announces that two or three trotting meetings will be given during the coming season.

—New York roadman have indulged in several match races to sleighs, but no time was taken. W. E. Parson's gelding, St. Louis, and Harry Williams's s. g., Tommy Lambert each won a race.

—Joseph Gavin, Chester Stock Farm, Chester, N. Y., has sold for \$800, to R. E. Roberts and S. S. Offnut, Georgetown, Ky., his 2-year-old colt Plumstone, by Harry Plummer, dam Bernardsville Maid, by Pickering.

—The chestnut gelding Jennings died recently at Coney Island. He was the property of Mr. W. H. Timmons, and a son of Glen Athol and Lotta, by Hunter's Glencoe, and therefore full brother to the famous Glencoe.

—Manzanita, 2:16; Patron, 2:19; Palo Alto, 2:20; Eagle Bird, 2:21; St. Bel, 2:24; Silverone, 2:24; Greenlander, 2:24; Granby, 2:25; Aquarius, 2:29; and Guitard, 2:29, will be among the crack 4-year-olds on the turf in 1887.

—W. H. Chepe, of the Meadow-thorpe stud, Lexington, Ky., has purchased of Hon. A. Belmont, the chestnut yearling colt, by The Ill-Used, dam Dauntless, by Macaroni, and the chestnut yearling filly, by The Ill-Used, dam Nellie James, by Dollar.

—Samuel Greenburg's trotter Kitty Knox, well known as one of the fastest in the State of Connecticut, dropped dead on the Watertown road, on the 12th inst., while trotting with O. G. Camp's Nutwood, Jr. It is supposed that she ruptured a blood vessel.

—Charles Backman has sold to Thomas Pattern, of New York, the very promising young mare Columbine, by Meredith, dam Refine, by Messenger Duroc; also the chestnut filly Annelia, foaled on May 24th, 1885, by Harold, dam Lady Tilton, by Mambrino Patchen.

—G. Valensin, owner of the 2-year-old stallion Shamrock, that recently made a record of 2:25, has deposited \$500 forfeit for a race with the 2-year-old Palo Alto filly Eda, by Electioneer, mile heat, best three in five, for \$1000 a side, January 22, on Bay District track.

—Abe Rohrbach's pacer, Mike Wilkes, record 2:10, while being exercised at Stillwater, Minn., Tuesday the 13th inst., began to prance and kick and in some way sprained his off hind ankle. Rohrbach fears the horse is permanently injured and will have to be retired from the turf.

—There were twenty 5-year-olds that trotted in 2:30 or better in 1886, against twenty-four in 1885; eighteen 4-year-olds against nineteen in 1885, eleven 2-year-olds against four in 1885. The two youngsters of 1886 are the Northern-bred filly Mamie Woods, that beat Nutbreaker's record by 1/4 seconds, and the California colt Shamrock, that beat the filly's time 2 1/4 seconds.

—Watts, the English Jockey, recently accepted the handsome retainer of £2000 from Douglas Baird, the owner of Esterprise, for the second call on his services during the ensuing three years, the Duke of Hamilton having the first call. An amusing story is told respecting Watts' disposal of the £2000 check. The careful jockey had no sooner received the paper than he ran off to London, proceeded to Mr. Rothschild's city office, and placed the money in the hands of the great financier for investment.

—Many of the sleighs went up the Wisconsin as far as Valley Green and Indian Rock. They would "brush" all the way up. A number of them, when they came to the new Park road, their horses being a little tired, would go them the balance of the way home. Now and then a fellow would go by them at a 3-minute clip, and when he arrived at his stable he would name several of the best horses on the road that he had beaten. Now, when the tracks are in good shape, this fellow who claims to have beaten them all, when asked to join in a friendly trot or a road race on one of the courses will back down with a number of excuses.

—Bend Or heads the list of English stallions for 1886, with four winners of thirteen races, worth £22,803, and thus deposes Hermit. In fact, for the first time in seven years, Hermit is deposed from his post as premier stallion of England, in which respect he has rivaled Stockwell's former pre-eminence, although it can hardly be said that he got as many first-class horses as Stockwell, the latter having got St. Albans, Blair Athol, Doncaster, Lord, Lyon, Achievement, The Duke, etc., while Hermit's best were Peter, Tristan, Thebaud, Shotover, St. Blaise and Clairvaux. Of course, Bend Or's prominence is due wholly to the overwhelming superiority of his son Ormonde, who has swept the board, excelling all 3-year-old triumphs in England racing history, and only needs to win the Ascot Gold Cup next season in order to take the rank with West Australian and Gladiator as the third wonder of the century.