

FOR THE FAIR SEX.

Winter Fashions.

The fabrics used in the composition of dresses and costumes are this season of the richest description. Every style of goods with plush-like texture is used for the foundation as well as the trimming of dresses. Velvets and plush brocades are the leading materials. When the jacket and skirt draperies are made of this, large and medium-sized figures are used, but when the costume is of plain goods, and the wide collar, cuffs and pockets are of the brocaded material, the smaller and detached patterns are most appropriate. A tight-fitting jacket lined with quilted silk of brocaded plush, velvet or satin, is worn with a skirt of the plain material, the color being slate of the ground in the brocaded goods. Deep collars, a hood at the back and corded edges finish the jacket. The skirt is made plain to the back breadth for stout ladies, but for slender figures is frequently shirred for several inches from the belt, even on the front breadths. Handsome materials are often made up with no trimming upon the skirts, and when the bonnet and muff are of the same material and daintily trimmed, and when well-fitting gloves and boots are worn, the entire costume is attractive through sheer simplicity. The variations of this style stop only when the whole costume is covered with trimmings of various colored fabrics, passementeries and fringes.

In dress goods for ordinary street wear the newest are the Cheviot suitings, in somber mixtures, from one to two yards wide. They are made up without other trimmings than side plaitings of the same. Dark colored moiré cloths, with tinsel bands for trimmings, are imported in all the mode colors. Both Scotch and French plaids in the newest combinations and colors are used with skirts of cashmere or other plain material matching one of the colors in the plaid. For mouchoir costumes the handkerchiefs may be obtained in all the prevailing dark colors. They are in squares of a yard, and the double width of one and a half yards, the latter forming a good-sized shawl, which may be arranged fancifully to form an extra wrap. A novelty in suitings is a striped material, with inch-wide stripes of chocolate, gendarme blue, cardinal and mixed colors. The entire suit is made of this. In mourning goods, the standard Henrietta cloths, cashmeres and similar materials are used as extensively as formerly. Skirts of walking dresses are made with plain flat crape bands or folds on the edges of the skirts. The entire front breadth is sometimes covered with crape for deepest mourning. The rich Ratzmere silks, used in combination with crape, are also used for deep mourning. Knife and box plaitings are placed on the edge in many instances, and combined with crape folds for half mourning. The styles of making up do not differ from those of ordinary costumes, except that in place of the Oriental mixtures and brocades used for trimming colored suits, bands and folds of crape are substituted.

Almost any style of cloak may be worn which suits the figure of the wearer. Short jackets, either tight fitting or half-tight, are made of the dark shades of plush and worn with all kinds of street suits, either black or colored, the good taste of the wearer preventing a discordant combination of colors. Gendarme blue, dark green, plum and wood browns are the principal colors used. Half long necks, with capes nearly the same length, are made of Surah silk and trimmed extensively with jet passementeries. The dolman, in all varieties of form, is the leading pattern for the cloaks of large size. They are very long, reaching to nearly the bottom of the dress, and the sleeves sometimes form a cape. They are made of Surah and armure silk, velvet, brocade or brocaded satin and lined with squirrel fur, quilted satin or silk, colored or black, and bright colored plush. They are trimmed with bands from three to five inches wide of silver, black and blue fox, plucked and unplucked beaver, chinchilla, leopard and tiger skins. The Russian hat deep collar, with bands surrounding the edge from the neck down the closed, or both sides of the open front, and around the bottom and wide sleeves, is the most suitable manner of trimming them. Seal-skin cloaks in sack shape are shorter than last season, but the dolmans are nearly as long as the dress. The untrimmed necks are preferred, even without the cuff. The dolmans are trimmed with five-inch bands of black fox and beaver. The Russian sleeves of the paletot are also trimmed with wide bands. Muffs of fur match the fur trimming of the cloaks with which they are worn, and are without trimming. Circular, lined with squirrel are as popular as ever. Seal caps are made in coaching, Paris, turban and helmet shapes, and are trimmed with a bird laid flatly near the top of the left side. Collars are used with muffs and cuffs to match.

In millinery there has been shown a decided preference for the small bonnet, the larger styles—those with the tremendous brims, imported early in the season—meeting with little favor. The shape most in vogue at present is the small, close-fitting capote, worn very far back on the head, in shape similar to the cap worn by the peasantry of Germany and Holland. These little bonnets—which are scarcely more than a headress—are marvels of richness and beauty. The most brilliant Oriental mixtures are used for their composition, combined with the natural colored plumage of the most beautiful tropical birds. In many the head and breast of the imperial form of the capote, the strings being of the ribbon used in trim-

ming or of the material composing the body of the bonnet; lined with a contrasting or harmonious colored satin. The colors used are of the richest, especially in plushes, garnet and old gold being chiefly in favor. Black bonnets are made in the same shapes; but the jaunty air given to the wearer, especially when worn, as they often are, without strings, renders them unsuitable for many faces. When black plush or brocade is used the trimmings are black ostrich tips, and invariably jet in some form. Beads of all sizes, from the smallest to nearly an inch in diameter are used on black bonnets. The strings are of ribbon or Surah silk doubled, and from two to six inches in width. They are tied either under the chin, at the back of the neck or behind the left ear. Bonnets of satin, entirely covered with beads, will be extensively worn. They are composed of a crown beaded on lace or net, with a fringe of jet hanging loosely at the back and falling over the hair in front. The strings are of net closely beaded. This style is particularly becoming to blondes. The shapes most favored in black bonnets are the small caps mentioned with modified gypsy and coronet shapes, which are becoming to the majority of faces. Those which do not rest flatly upon the head are lined with plain or shirred plush—either in black or colored bonnets. The large felt and beaver hats are worn principally by young ladies and misses, with the mouchoir or mixed cloth costumes, and should match the costume in color. They are bent in any shape adapted to the wearer's fancy and are trimmed with a scarf of Surah silk, finished at the ends with beaded balls or tassels and knotted with one bow on the left side. Many have no trimming except a large cord wound around two or three times and tied at the side with silk tassels hanging below the brim. A long ostrich plume is sometimes used, but needs care in arrangement to look well. The scarf or cord is the trimming most used.—*New York Herald.*

Fashion Notes.

Feather trimmings are again very popular. Kerchiefs are made of net rather than of mull for winter wear. Some of the new Jersey polonaises are laced down the back. Plaid must be waning in favor. It is made up crosswise for skirts. The Quaker dress, fashioned in America, is now adopted in Paris. The size of tournures is decidedly less exaggerated than the fashion prophets made them early in the autumn. Gowns of black silk and brocade are almost invariably brightened either with jet or with cashmere beads. Very fashionable walking suits are made of shepherds' plaid, in the colors, combined with a plain dark color. Cloth jackets matching the costume, or of cream-colored material, are very stylishly trimmed with plush, which is used for hood, collar, cuffs and muff.

The richest and most effective hoods are of black velvet or silk, densely covered with sparkling jet ornaments and appliques, and finished at the point of the hood in the back with handsome jet cords and pendants.

Fleece-lined pique, which is so prized by mothers who dress their children in white all winter, comes in better qualities this season than ever before. The Marseilles fabric is stouter, and the back has a warm, heavy fleece like Canton flannel. The figures are in flower and leaf brocades, instead of diamonds and honeycombs, and the goods are also suitable and pretty for children's cloaks as well as for dresses. Very little trimming is needed with these suits.

Walking dresses of cloth are very fashionable. Very stylish and elegantly fitting polonaises are also made of this material, and draped over underskirts of plush or velvet. Many of the new over dresses are untrimmed; some are trimmed with extra wide bands of fur or plush. A few of the earlier importations of costumes of cloth were heavily trimmed, but there seems to be a reaction setting in, and plain unadorned slightly looped dresses are considered the most distinguished looking.

The "Claudia" is a name given to a high stylish bonnet for young faces. It is modeled somewhat like a Greek cap, with high shirred crown and a fall of rich lace over the hair, and strings to tie under the chin. A very pretty capote is made of pale blue plush, trimmed with cream-colored lace, and cream-white ostrich tips. Another style, very simple and becoming, resembles the hats worn by the French cuirassiers, and is called the "Zelda." The Gypsy hat for girls is like a modified "poke" bonnet, and is tied down at the sides in the way the seaside hats were worn in the summer.

A Woman's Trade.

We called attention lately to silk culture as a means by which women could add to their incomes without leaving home or giving up their domestic duties. Another way is by the production of honey.

An apiary needs but occasional care; the original cost of the bees and appliances is not great, and the business usually pays all expenses and begins to yield a handsome profit in a couple of years. It is a trade, too, which pays when undertaken in the simplest, smallest way—in the most extensive.

Honey always brings a good price in the markets of all our cities. Through the Southern Alleghany mountains it sells for eight and ten cents per pound, because there are no railways to bring it into the market; but even that price pays the barefooted mountain girl, who swarms her bees with ringing of bells

and flashing of a well-scoured tin pan. Nearer the great Atlantic cities the profit of bee raising is very large, especially since 1878, when the first successful attempt was made to carry American honey in the comb to England. It involved a good deal of mechanical skill and patient experiment to pack the combs in large masses so that the motion of the steamer would not break them. But the riddle was solved at last, and the new honey sold in the London markets at as high a price as the Greek. It added another item to the long list of food supplies with which we have begun to feed the old world and to enrich ourselves.

There is no reason why the industrious daughters of farmers should not better their fortunes by this easy means. They must remember, however, that bee raising, like every other business, requires intelligence, patience and long, careful study. It has risen almost to a fine art in some places. Mr. D. A. Jones, a member of the Canadian parliament, for instance, made a journey to Cyprus and Syria to procure queen bees of certain fine breeds. So great was the difficulty of securing these in Arabia and near the Red sea that he estimates the cost of each bee at over \$100. But this may be called fancy stock raising. Our young girls will confine their ambition to a homelier pursuit of the business.—*Youths' Companion.*

News and Notes for Women.

Among the treasury clerks at Washington are great-granddaughters of Thomas Jefferson and Robert Morris.

The daughters of the Duke of Richmond are persistent and successful fishermen, and as catchers of salmon are said to be rivaling their countrymen.

Miss Frederika Perry and Miss Ellen Martyn, who form the only ladies' law firm in Chicago, are both graduates of the law department of the University of Michigan.

Three American young ladies at an inn in the village of Limpel filled in the column of the register headed "Occupation" with the words: "Looking for a husband."

The wife of the first President Adams, it has been found, was the originator of the woman's suffrage movement. She wrote to her father and suggested that "laws for ladies" should be inserted in the first Constitution.

The New York correspondent of the Washington *Sunday Herald* says: A new diversion among New York women of money and leisure is to save a piece of every kind of material used in their garments. These are handsomely bound in book form, each sample making one leaf. The volume forms a history of the owner's dress from season to season, and is of intense interest to herself at least. It is a story of the continued-incur-next sort, and in too many a case tells of extravagance, vanity and ruin.

A Congressman's Pranks.

The Detroit *Evening News* prints some reminiscences of Rev. J. Hyatt Smith, Congressman-elect from the Third district, Brooklyn, who spent his youth in Detroit, from which we extract the following:

There was nothing mean or vicious about "John's" practical jokes. He had a good heart, but his propensity for mischief was so strong that it frequently ran away with his common sense.

On one occasion he called during a rain storm at Dr. Russell's house and got a prescription for some ailment with which he was troubled. He was miserably clad and shivered with cold. Dr. Russell pitied the boy and concluded to lend him his own coat. "Here, John," said he, bringing forth the garment, "it is cold and rainy outside, and you are not well. You had better wear this coat home." For years after Dr. Russell remembered how puzzled he was at "John's" behavior when he took the coat, and how "John" grasped both the doctor's hands and "wondered how he could ever thank him for his kindness." The coat never came back, neither was anything ever said about it by John or Dr. Russell until a couple of years ago when Mr. Smith in one of his visits to Detroit told "the coat story" as a specimen of his mania for practical jokes!

"John" belonged to a lyceum or debating society, but his pranks were so exasperating that the club took advantage of his absence one night and voted him out. The lyceum then adjourned, and as fast as the boys reached the steps on the outside of the building they were treated to a violent slide down a board which John had laid on the steps and which they were not able to see in the darkness. John stood on the other side of the street enjoying their discomfort. Some of the victims crossed over, and to avoid discovery he crawled under a dry goods box. The other boys sat on the top of the box and agreed that "John" must have put that board on the steps—it was "like him all over." A plan was arranged to get even with their tormentor, and all the details were fixed within hearing of John, who, it is needless to say, being "forewarned" was cute enough to be "forearmed."

John's employer was very strict about the hours kept by his family and clerks. One day he asked John what time he went to bed. "Between nine and ten," promptly answered the future clergyman. Mr. Chester would not have been so well pleased if he had known that "nine" and "ten" were marked in chalk on each side of John's chamber door.

Many ladies who objected to gay red or bright blue corsets a few years ago now wear them in preference to all others, as they retain their fresh look a long time, and do not soil easily.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

Some Items in Farm Economy.

The arrangement of the buildings and the division of the farm into fields depends so much upon the character of the farm, the kind of farming, individual taste, etc., that it is out of the question to have a fixed plan that is the best one for all farms of any given size. There are certain general principles which should serve as a foundation for the arrangement, but the details must necessarily vary greatly. For example, if possible the barns should be upon a rise of ground where a cellar can be built opening to the lower ground at the rear. The fields should be so arranged that there shall be as little fencing as possible, and so located that all the fields can be easily reached from the lane. A long field has considerable advantage over one of the same area that is square—in the longer "bouts," and therefore less time spent in turning, plowing, harrowing, sowing, harvesting, etc. A pasture close to the stables is always handy, and, other things being equal, the orchard should not be put at the rear of the farm, where the wood lot had best be located. There is much labor to be saved in having everything so placed—and this applies to the various details that seem trivial at first sight—that there will be no extra steps or turns in doing the every-day work of the farm. For example, many days' work can be saved by having the pump in a handy corner of the barnyard, where the stock from a number of yards may come to the troughs. If the matters of the farm are not already economically arranged, it would be well to make such changes of fences, buildings, etc., as to finally secure the desired end. By degrees the thoughtful farmer will improve his farm until it approximates to a model and therefore an economical farm.

Apple Recipes.

APPLE CUSTARD.—Two eggs, six tablespoonfuls sugar, one cup of cream; beat the mixture thoroughly and flavor strongly with lemon unless some other flavoring is preferred. Then take a teaspoonful of stewed apples, mash them and add them to the other ingredients; make crust and bake same as egg custards. They are delicious.

APPLES STEWED WHOLE.—Pare and core some firm, tart apples; arrange them on the bottom of a porcelain kettle, fill the centers with sugar and powdered spice, or grated lemon peel, and pour over them enough syrup to cover them; to make the syrup, boil a pint of water to a pound of sugar, and skim it clear; simmer the apples in the syrup until they look clear, then take them up without breaking them, and strain the syrup over them; cool them before using.

APPLE CREAM.—Weigh three pounds of apples and a half-pound of sugar; peel and core the apples, cut them in thin slices, put them in a porcelain-lined kettle with the sugar, the grated rind and juice of one lemon, and a teaspoonful of ground ginger; simmer all these ingredients slowly until the apple is tender enough to rub through a sieve with a potato-masher; meantime scald a quart of fresh cream, mix the apple pulp with it, beat it thoroughly, and use it either warm or cold.

APPLE SNOW.—Peel, core and slice six large apples; stew them to a pulp with sufficient sugar to sweeten them; take them from the fire and beat them smooth; meantime beat the whites of six eggs to a stiff froth, gently mix them with two heaping tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar and the apple pulp, and pile the snow thus made in a rough heap on a high dish; a few bits of bright colored jelly, or a row of candied orange or lemon rings, makes the dish look very pretty.

Good Recipe for Curing Meat.

Major Fress, the long-time editor of the *German Town Telegraph*, says: As the season has arrived when curing meat is in order, we republish as of old, our famous recipe for curing beef, pork, mutton, hams, etc., as follows: To one gallon of water, take one and one-half pounds of salt, one-half pound of sugar one-half ounce of saltpeter and one-half ounce of potash. Omit the potash unless you can get the pure article. Druggists usually keep it.

In this ratio the pickle can be increased to any quantity desired. Let these be boiled together until all the dirt from the sugar rises to the top and is skimmed off. Then throw it into a tub to cool, and when cold, pour it over your beef or pork. The meat must be well-covered with pickle, and should not be put down for at least two days after killing, during which time it should be slightly sprinkled with powdered saltpeter, which removes all the surface-blood, etc., leaving the meat fresh and clean. Some omit boiling the pickle, and find it to answer well, though the operation of boiling purifies the pickle by throwing off the dirt always to be found in salt and sugar. If this recipe is strictly followed, it will require only a single trial to prove its superiority over the common way, or most ways of putting down meat, and will not soon be abandoned for any other. The meat is unsurpassed for sweetness, delicacy and freshness of color.

Health Hints.

CURE FOR NEURALGIC HEADACHE.—Squeeze the juice of a lemon into a small cup of strong coffee. This will usually afford immediate relief in neuralgic headache. Tea ordinarily increases neuralgic pain, and ought not to be used by persons affected with it.

A BUNION REMEDY.—Use pulverized saltpeter and sweet oil. Obtain at the druggist's five or six cents' worth of saltpeter; put into a bottle with suffi-

cient olive oil to dissolve it; shake up well, and rub the inflamed joints night and morning, and more frequently if painful.

NERVOUS CHILDREN.—The following suggestion is worthy the consideration of parents: Nervousness with a child is almost always a matter of the stomach. A crust of bread will usually put an end to the most obstinate perverseness. Children, for this reason, should never be allowed to go to bed after a fit of crying with an empty stomach. A bit of bread and jelly or a cup of custard will bring smiles and happiness when all the moral law fails, and for the soundest of reasons.

TOOTHACHE.—For toothache, where a cavity exists, there are many remedies in common use, but, says an exchange, none seem to relieve as equal parts of hydrate of chloral and gum camphor rubbed together. Saturate a piece of cotton with the mixture and put it into the cavity of the tooth, covering it with dry cotton. Care must be taken not to allow the remedy to come in contact with the inside of the mouth, as it may produce severe burning.

Healthful Labor.

There is both satisfaction and remuneration in the business of poultry breeding. When the work is performed with system and intelligence the steady worker will be gratified, and for the amount of labor required, will find himself (or herself) amply rewarded by the product returned. But little capital is required to start a hennery; if the intention is to raise fancy stock for the purpose of furnishing eggs to breeders, small quarters and a few fowls of pure breeds will do to begin with. In a single year the amateur may raise sufficient numbers to stock his yards to advantage.

On the other hand, if the desire be to supply eggs and chickens for market, a cross of any of the large varieties with common fowls will prove very satisfactory. This branch of the undertaking will need more room and a closer attention to the smaller details. There is no difficulty in making this business a profitable one if it is undertaken in the spirit that is required to make any vocation a success. For fancy stock only the pure breeds can be used, and these should be carefully bred in succession and strictly by themselves. Care must be used each year as the flocks increase, to select from among them the best pens for layers, and the finest cocks for sires.—*American Stockman.*

Points in a Pig.

Head and ears.—The head wide in front, ears erect and pointed forward, chops rounded and well filled up to the brislet.

Crest and shoulders.—Crest wide and rising to the shoulders; shoulder blades well sloped backward.

Ribs and loins.—Ribs well sprung; loins wide and slightly arched.

Hindquarters.—Hindquarters not to slope, nor narrow toward the tail.

Hams.—Hams rounded outward, well let down and full toward the twist.

Chest.—Chest wide with elbows well out.

Fore-ribs and flank.—Fore-ribs wide underneath; flank well let down, straight and well filled at the stifle.

Legs and feet.—Legs straight and small in bone; feet small and compact.

Hair and color.—Hair plentiful, bright and vigorous; color to denote purity of breed.

Tail.—Tail entire, thick at root and tapering.

Size.—According to head.

Changing Crops.

Forty years ago Messrs. Lawes & Gilbert, of England, began a series of experiments in wheat growing. They selected plots of ground; in some they tried different manures, while on one plot no manure or change of crop was allowed, but wheat followed wheat successively for forty years. In that time there has been a decrease of just ten bushels per acre—one-fourth bushel per acre a year. Taking this as a standard case, farmers who follow wheat with wheat, not giving the land any needed rest or feeding it with manure or green crops turned under, may look for a decrease, of course less some years than others, but an average of one-fourth bushel per acre a year.

How to Choose a Good Cow.

The crumpled horn is a good indication; a full eye another. Her head should be small and short. Avoid the Roman nose; this indicates thin milk, and but little of it. See that she is dished in the face, sunk between the eyes. Notice that she is what stock men call a good handler—skin soft and oose, like the skin of a dog; deep for the loin to the udder, and very slim and tall. A cow with these marks never fails to be a good milker. There is more difference in cows than is usually supposed, and but few really good cows are offered in our markets. If a farmer has a "No. 1 article," he won't sell her unless obliged to do so.

Transplanting Apple Trees.

The *Baldwinville Gazette* says: Apple trees may be transplanted at any time from the cessation of growth or the fall of the leaf in autumn until the buds begin to open in spring, when the weather is not cool or freezing. The usual time is from the middle of October till the ground freezes, and from early in April until some weeks afterward. The advantage of autumn planting is that the soil becomes more perfectly settled about the roots before the growth commences. The disadvantage is that the surface becomes crusted and is not broken up and made mellow as it should be in the spring. Care should be taken that the fall-set trees are not whipped about by the winds, and on heavy soil perfect drainage should be provided.

Stones on Public Highways.

A single loose stone, which might be thrown out in two seconds is sometimes struck by wagon wheels fifty times a day, or more than 10,000 times a year. Ten thousand blows of a sledge hammer as hard on one wagon would probably demolish it entirely, and the stone does no less harm because it divides its blows among a hundred vehicles. There is, therefore, probably no investment that would pay a higher rate of profit than a few dollars' worth of work in clearing public highways of loose and fixed stones.—*Practical Farmer.*

Garibaldi.

The mere narrative of Garibaldi's life reads like a mediæval legend or a tale heroic times. He is at once the Ulysses and the Achilles of the Italian national epic. Long before his name had been heard in Europe his exploits, both by sea and land, had made it a word of power in the new world. Having been involved in revolutionary intrigues he quitted Europe in 1836 for South America, only to return after twelve years exile, the story of which, with its stirring adventures both of battle and peaceful enterprise, is as romantic as any subsequent portion of his wonderful career. In 1848 Garibaldi returned to Europe, allured, like so many other Italian patriots, by Pio Nono's accession. But though he soon found that his hopes in that direction were to be disappointed, Garibaldi did not return in vain. His share in the defense of Rome against the troops of the French republic under General Oudinot and his victory over the Neapolitans in the campaign of Velletri served to show his countrymen that they would not want a leader ready to go all lengths when the time came. The time did not come for another ten years, and the intervening period was one of sorrow and humiliation for Garibaldi.

After the disastrous Roman campaign, ending with the occupation of Rome by the French troops and the overthrow of Mazzini's triumvirate, Garibaldi was hunted from place to place; two of his devoted friends were taken by the Austrian troops and shot without any form of trial; his heroic wife, Anita, the companion of all his adventures and perils, succumbed to the exposure and privation of his flight, and the general himself only escaped from his more impracticable foes to be arrested by Sardinian troops and carried to Genoa, where La Marmora, who held the command, allowed him to retire to Tunis.

When Victor Emmanuel made his peace with Austria, and the hopes of Italy seemed extinguished for the moment, Garibaldi once more crossed the Atlantic and settled in New York as a sailor chandler. He returned to Europe in 1855, and in 1859 the war between France and Austria brought him again into the field. Here we approach the better known, or, at least, the better remembered, parts of Garibaldi's eventful career. All the world recoils at the exploits of the *Chasseurs des Alpes*, whom Garibaldi organized for mountain warfare, and led with consummate daring along the sub-alpine ranges and to the very summit of the Stelvio pass before the sudden peace of Villafranca put an end for the moment to the rising hopes of Italian patriots and statesmen. Still more familiar is the story of the campaign of the following year, which was begun in Sicily by Garibaldi and a few devoted followers, and ended in a few months at Naples, when the victorious patriot, who took no reward for himself and asked for none, handed over the crown of the Two Sicilies to Victor Emmanuel and retired to his farm in Caprea.

This was the crowning point of Garibaldi's eventful career. Here end not indeed, his efforts, but his direct achievements, in the cause of his country's freedom. The crowning of the edifice was reserved for other hands than his, and the task was to be accomplished by other means than he knew how to employ.—*London Letter.*

A Prudent Constable.

Mr. Elijah Hitchcock was a Connecticut constable, whose character was under scrutiny. Deacon Solomon Rising was inquired of about him.

"Deacon Solomon Rising," said the questioner, "do you think Mr. Hitchcock is an honest man?"

"Very promptly—"Oh, no, sir! Not by any means."

"Well, do you think he is a mean man?"

"Well, with regard to that," said the deacon, a little more deliberately, "I may say that I don't really think he is a mean man; I've sometimes thought he was what you might call a keeful—a prudent man."

"What do you mean by a prudent man?"

"Well, I mean this: that one time he had an execution for four dollars against the old Widow Witter, back here, and he went up to her house and levied on a flock of ducks. He chased them ducks one at a time, round the house pooty much all day; and every time he caught a duck he'd set right down and ring his neck and charge mileage; and his mileage mounted to more than the debt. Notkin' mean about it, as I know of, but I always thought that after that that Mr. Hitchcock was a very prudent man."

Parisians delight in monstrosities of various kinds, and have been crowding round one of Cheval's windows in the Palais Royal to see an enormous mushroom, which grew in a wood at Versailles, and was brought to Paris with the utmost care as a positive phenomenon. It is more than a yard in circumference, and the weight is something over twenty-four pounds.