A Thanksgiving.

A little brown bird and a sunbeam On a leafless thorn at day; This foot, that foot, under his wing, From dawn to evening gray It lifted its happy, grateful song-Tirra-la! tirra-la! tirra-la!

And I thought in the one slant sunbeam That an angel waiting staid. The church bells broke into merry peals, And the little children played; And prayer and choral and grateful lay Filled all the air on Thanksgiving day.

"Oh Ancient Giver of untold years," Cried many a happy voice, For the corn and wine, for love and life, Thou hast made us to rejoice!" And the organ peal, and song and prayer, Thrilled with their music the clear cool air.

Still in the sunbeam the angel staid, Though the streets grew empty and still. Festival lights were in loving homes Feasting and peace, and good-will, Why did the angel linger, pray? Was it to hear the little ones play?

The little brown bird on the leafless thorn Sat still in the beam to sing, Till the amber west had turned to gray; Then he tucked his head under his wing, With a soft, "low, lingering "Tir-ra-la!" And the beautiful angel went away. -Mary A. Barr

A Thanksgiving Story.

"There is no position in life, my daughter, so bad that there is nothing in it to be thankful for."

"Pray, tell me, what we have to be thankful for?" cried I, impatiently. "We were brought up to expect a fortune, and are entirely unfitted for the struggle before us, now that we are left without a cent."

"I have my lovely daughter and my little ones," replied my mother; "and if my daughter would but pray for a better frame of mind she would find that she has many things to count

among the blessings of life." When mamma was young she was a dainty little beauty, the family she married into had held a prominent social position for years, and were ambitious of continuing to hold it. But it seemed to be slipping from them, for my father's only sister was a soured old maid; his oldest brother had married much beneath him; and my father was the only one of the family who continued a friendly intercourse with him. The second brother had erred in the opposite direction, marrying a marquise, the widow of a French noble of ancient family; she scorned the society of the parvenus' of our new world and held herself aloof to absolute exclusion. Her husband's immense wealth. however, received considerable notice through her aristocratic and lavish use of it. After this failure the hopes centered in my mother, and the sparkling little belle disappointed them by becoming a confirmed invalid, unable even to receive the calls of familiar friends. My father, however, worshiped her, and she lived in perfect happiness with him till I was seventeen years old. During all these years she was confined to her room and never knew that the great house she lived in had grown barn-like through the carelessness and pillaging of servants. Her own room was a cozy little nest, and to her was all the world. During my earlier years I was an only child. When another clive branch adorned my father's table I went to boarding school. where I learned those accomplishments had brought her on the stand at her may know how great it is, my darling," deemed proper for a young heiress-embroidery, French, music, etc.

said I was a second edition of mamma, "just what she had been at my age." These were the circumstances when I was sitting at her feet listening with a most humble manner, but most rehellious heart, to the gentle rebuke with which I began this story, and which after a moment's silence I answered by saying: "Now, mamma darling, you have given me my lecture, let's change the subject; tell me something pleasant, something about yourself when you was young, about some of your admirers, about some one of them who

had never agreed before, agreed most

and that but a pittance of income re-

mained. Yet it was patent that their in-

school not having the faintest knowledge

of the condition of things. I soon

learned; finding that we, who should

have lived in luxury, could afford but

one half-grown servant to do the rough-

est work, while I, with all my ignor-

ance upon me, was supposed to cook

modest fare-rice and some of the cheap

fruits which the summer and fall had

produced so plentifully. Everybody

were young.'

"My dear," replied my mother, one of my admirers, one who without doubt loved me dearly, I have been thinking all day, but his love did not make me happy; on the contrary, it gavs me a more bitter grief than at that time I had ever experienced.

" Emile Cardolet was a lad of sixteen years, but of a precociously developed mind and character. I had known him but a short time when it became apparent that he had attached himself to me with all the strength of ardent temperament I did all I could to open the boy's eyes to the mistake he had made, but the endeavor was useless. He rushed headlong to the end, and then his self-willed character played the rest of the act. He came to me the day before I was married to beg, entreat, implore, beseech me to listen to his love. I tried to be gentle with him, but no case of mine could alter the essence of my answer. I pointed out to him that I was twenty-three years of age, but I loo ked so childish that my looks belied my words. I told him that I might almost be his mother, and offered him my warmest friendship, which offer he disdained almost violently, and left the house. For a few days he was missing, then we learned that he had gone before the mast, on a whaling vessel which was to be gone three years. He, an only child and heir to a vast fortunehad left all. 'Twas a nine days' wonder among his acquaintances, but I could understand the nature that could

n ot bare its wound to the hand of man

for treatment, but would carry it alone

to its God, away from society to the

wild, free winds of heaven for succor

and support. From that day to this I

have never heard of Emile Cardolet,

but am certain I did not offer my friend-

ship to one unworthy of it, and that

wherever he is he is a noble, earnest

man, albeit somewhat hasty and impetu-

ous.

Next morning mamma surprised me with a little noard of shillings which she had saved from the fire and light money, for a Thanksgiving turkey, and desired me to go to the market and make the purchase. This I did, and on my return I beheld a gentleman on our steps. I mounted them, with my turkey-laden basket on my arm. The stranger, turning toward me, said: "Does Mrs. Brentner-" then raised his hat, and with sentence unfinished, gazed at me an instant, while expressions of amazement and bewilderment chased each other over his face; recovering himself, however, sufficiently soon to render an apology unnecessary. Seeing his confusion I answered at once "Yes, sir, mamma is at home," and addressed myself to the opening of the door, that he might have time to collect his scattered senses; then I added: "Will you walk in? Can I take a magage to mamma for you?" He bowed, and landed me a little en velope directed to mamma. I in turn mutely showed him into the parlor and sped to mamma's room with the note. "Oh! such a handsome fellow, mamma, such a handsome fellow," I repeated, as mamma drew forth the card bearing the name:

EMILE CARDOLET. Emile Cardolet," exclaimed I; "Why, mam ma, this is a young man."

"He must be about thirty-six," said mamma, "I will see him." I arranged The children said so, and Emile and I her silver curls about her frail face, drew her fleecy crape shawl a little after it that Emile Cardolet told me closer, laid the bunch of bright pinks I that he had a big love for me. "You side, and then ushered up the hero of he said, "when I tell you it has been When I last evening's story and of my night's was seventeen my father died, after a meditations.

week's illness, believing himself to be | On entering he approached mamma worth a large fortune, and leaving it to and bent over her dainty hand with heaven. I have crowded it down, buried my mother without reserve, naming his a manner almost reverential. Then it, smothered it and believed I had two brothers as executors. They, who mamma presented me to him, and as dwarfed it; but when I met you on the perfectly in the affairs connected with from the room to wrestle with the, to into full life, and overwhelmed me with this estate, so perfectly that within a me, herculean task of preparing a its magnitude." year's time my poor sick mother was in- Thanksgiving dinner. With countless formed that most of her money was lost questions and doubts did I torture myself. If I had only kept that little tude, or that Thanksgiving Day was for maid she would have known about the vestments had in no wise lessened their fire, and possibly about the turkey. own fortunes. I was recalled from Then I could have gotten along well enough. I could lay a very respectable table in mamma's room for three, and our guest, if he remained, need not know of our extreme conditions, but that assistance failing, the holiday having been given, and taken at once, the maiden was now so far from me as were sew, market, etc. My abilities were not the poles. Then I began to lay out the articles required to prepare the dinner, strained in the cooking, for when all necessary expenses were met we had but for I was determined that mamma should not be disappointed, when new horrors began to assail me. Mamma would have given me full instructions if it had not been for the untimely happening of our visitor. "Perhaps he will not stay long, after all," thought I at last. I will go back and wait a little, and if he does not go, I will get mamma to whisper me one or two directions, and then I can get along. So, quite flushed with anxiety, and altogether dushed with analog, considerably disturbed, I made my way to mamma's room. Mamma had fir speaking and Mr. Cardolet, Othello-

like, was telling of "disastrous chances,

and moving accidents by flood and

field," which he had encountered during

ful that you had a jolly time when you his abrupt departure his family had left America and gone to live upon an estate in the south of France, which had been for centuries the property of his father's family: how two years previous to this visit he had returned to his home, and since then conducted his father's affairs; how now, that he was again in our country, he had hurried to claim the offer of friendship which my mother had once made him, and which he had ever prized, and how startled he had been on meeting me by my likeness to my mother. "For you are her second self," said he, addressing me for the

second time. Now was my time. "Yes, every one says that I look like mamma," I replied, adding, "pardon me one moment," and then whispered quickly in mamma's ear, "Will pot-herbs do for the turkey-dressing?"

A smile broke over mamma's face which showed she was amused at my embarrassment.

"We need not make a state secret of this," she said, and then addressing her friend, added: "My little girl has had but poor preparation for her present occupations." And Mr. Cardolet, gazing at me, the picture of discomfort, said impulsively: "Pray, what is the matter; can I help you?"

"Oh, Emile," cried mamma, laughing with a merry, almost youthful laugh, you are impulsive and generous as ever, but you can hardly help here. Rita has given the maid a holiday, and turkey for dinner."

"Of course I can help," cried our guest. "Miss Rita, your mamma and I are very old friends, and as you are your mamma's very self, you and I are old friends. And as I never allow a friend to be in trouble without lending him a helping band, I intend with your permission to help you cook the turkey. The thought of taking him into the kitchen was too much for me, and I fairly cried:

"Oh, indeed, I am not so stupid, I an get along, indeed I can." Mamma had no opportunity to say anthing. Mr. Cardolet and I had it all to ourselves; poor little dear, she could only laugh at my evident confusion, and his eager offers, as she had not laughed for many long years.

" Now let me help," continued be, and if I have not lost the skill of old camping days, when I not only cooked the turkeys, but caught them, and sometimes, I fear, none too lawfully, I will make you a dinner that a gourmet might be thankful for."

Just then the children came in from church. Nellie, the youngest, an enfant terrible, delighted with the merry stranger, in our gloomy house, entered at once into any plan that would detain him, and, bringing one of my cooking aprons, gave it to him and offered to show him the way to the kitchen.

"See, I am unanimously elected, Miss Rita; you will have to let me join your staff.

Mamma, to my astonishment, offered no objection, but said: "Go on, Rita, dear, and meantime I will read the letters Emile has brought me from his family."

And so from our first meeting he has been shouldering my burdens, and making life, which looked so gloomy, a constant joy-I had almost said a jest. That Thanksgiving dinner was a success. have since said so. It was not long growing more years than you have been growing. It was planted by your likeness when you were yet an angel in soon thereafter as I could I slipped step Thanksgiving morning it sprang

Dear reader, need I tell you that it also overwhelmed me with its magnime a day of thanksgiving, indeed?

Guiteau as a Dead-Beat-

Guiteau says that he was enabled to travel from Toledo, O., to Albany, N. Y., without paying a cent of fare. How did you manage it?" he was asked. "Easy enough," said the assas sin; " when the conductor would come around and ask me for my ticket I would just tell him I was a theologian lecturing for the Lord. These conductors are very clever fellows, and are generally Christians. I traveled free until once I was on a train going into Newark. Although I told the conductor I was lecturing for the Lord, he said I would have to pay. As I had no money he told the brakeman to turn me over to an officer at the next station. As s as the conductor left the car and the brakeman went to fix the fire in the stove I went out on the platform and after getting down on the lower step let go. I did not think it would hurt me, but it shook me up and tore my Guiteau says the train was running thirty miles an hour when he jamped off, but he was determined not to be level you cear y, and I will be tank- h s long absence. How ten years after turned over to a policemar.

The Precions Metals.

Gold is valuable not only on account of its scarcity, but for the peculiar properties which it possesses and which render it preferable to any other mineral for particular purposes. Its extreme malleability renders it easy to be worked into the thousand delicate and complicated forms which we find in articles of adornment and ornamentation. Its rich color and brilliant luster render it peculiarly attractive in the eves of the people, and its perfect unchangability when exposed to the action of the elements, a property possessed in an equal degree by no other metal, makes it at once pleasing and valuable. When pure, gold is so soft that it may be beaten to a thickness not exceeding 1-250000 of an inch, that is, 250,000 of the sheets of gold placed one upon another would make a pile only an inch in thickness; in this form it is used for gilding.

Goll is measured or reckoned by carats. Pure gold is said to be twentyfour carats fine. In this condition it is too soft to be useful in manufactured articles so it is usually mixed with some harder metal-generally silver, which then receives the name of alloy. If gold has four parts of alloy it is termed twenty carat gold; if ten parts alloy it is fourteen carat gold.

Gold is practically insoluble, nitromuriatic acid being the only substance which will dissolve it. It is, with one exception, the heaviest of known metals. s now in a quandary about preparing a The specific gravity of platinum is The next three metals in order of weight | labor. are mercury, 13.580; lead, 11.352; and silver, 10.474 Gold is seven times heavier than granite. One cubic inch weighs 8 1-3 pounds, and a cubic foot 1,200 pounds. At the present rate the cubic inch is worth \$2,700, and the cubic foot \$384,000. Silver weighs 4 1.6 pounds to the cubic inch, which is worth \$75.90, and the cubic foot weighs six hundred pounds, and is worth \$10,852.

It is estimated that up to the commencement of 1880 the amount of gold in existence was \$8,000,000,000, of which two-thirds was coin and bullion, and one-third in jewelry, etc.

Next to gold in value, as also in malleability, comes silver. It is readily dissolved by nitric acid. Pure water has no effect upon it, but if it contains any animal or vegetable matter it blackpresence of more or less sulphur in the Long exposure to the air will tarnish silver.

The amount of silver in existence estimated to be \$5,300,000,000, of which \$3,300,000,000 is in coin and bullion, the balance being in jewelry, ornaments, etc. If all the gold and silver in existence were made into one solid cube it would measure less than seventy feet on each side, and would weigh regularly. about 3,331,400 pounds.

The United States is now producing annually about \$100,000,000 of gold and silver. Three-quarters of the gold now in existence has been mined within the last thirty-five years. It is estimated by a writer in the Boston Economist that from the carliest times to the tained was \$1,400,000,000, and of silver \$2,200,000,000. From the Christian era to the discovery of America: Gold, \$3,900,000,000; silver, \$500,000,000.

A Plucky Little Drummer.

A gentleman now residing in New York said that he was once a witness of user to replace an incompetent man a singular occurrence at a dance hall in with one skilled in his duties." Gunnison, Col. A smart little drummer hall watching the dancers through his eyeglasses, which were balanced on the edge of his nose in a rather comical manner. The drummer was attired in a nobby suit of clothes, made from a altogether too foppish an appearance to please the fastidious taste of the frontier roughs. The bully of the hall was waltzing with the pride of the flats, the best dancer in town. When she caught sight of the drummer she laughed in her partner's face, and as they came around again he brushed her rudely against him. Supposing that the collision was the result of carelessness. the drummer paid no particular attention to it. On the next turn, however, the bully threw his girl against the little fellow with such force as to knock his eyeglasses from his nose and nearly upset him. Biding his time the dram mer placed his glasses in his pocket, and when the ruffian came around again struck out with his right swiftly, taking the bully directly under the ear and dropping him as suddenly as if he had

When the rough regained his feet, with his hand on his revolver, he found the drummer's pistol within a foot of his breast,

"You have the drop on me, pard," he exclaimed, "and I apologize. And now," he continued, "if you'll permit me to introduce you to the pride, I'm blessed if you shan't dance with her."

"I don't desire to dance," replied the drummer; "but hereafter, as heretofore, I shall always stand ready to defend my right to wear the style of garments which suits me best."

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

The only place where cremation seems to be thoroughly established is Milan, Italy, where about 150 bodies have been burned since the crematory was builtscarcely a year ago.

The amount of cotton manufactured in Great Britain in 1880 was 1,405,-000,000 pounds. The amount manufactured in the United States was 930,-000,000 pounds. Great Britain manufactured only about fifty per cent. more than the United States.

The Indians, Lieutenant Brown of the United States army reports, have seen least fifty per cent. the results of the training received by Indian children at Hampton, Va., and appreciate them. They are now anxious to have their boys selected for the school, but they are not so much in fa. vor of educating the girls. Their idea is that if the girls were educated "they would get like the white women and not do any work at all."

From statistics recently published in France it appears that there are 1,108 centenarians in Europe. Switzerland claims to have the oldest inhabitant, in the person of an aged farmer living in the Canton Grisons, who has seen 109 summers. Female centenarians are in the ascendancy, there being 1,864, while that of the males is 1,244. A majority of the old people have spent their lives in remote country districts, where they 20.337, while that of gold is 18.258, have devoted their time to outdoor

> A statistician has been figuring upon the annual consumption by American manufacturers of the precious metals, which he estimates as \$13,000,000 gold and \$3,000,000 silver. Two-thirds of the latter is used in making plate. Of the gold, the greater part goes for rings and watch cases. It is estimated that there are about 250,000 wedding rings given in this country every year, averaging \$2 each in cost. There are 100,000 more rings given as gages d'amou and a still larger number bestowed in holiday presents.

The importation of opium by this country, which in 1861 was 109,536 pounds, in 1871 had grown to 315,121, and in 1880 amounted to 533, 451 pounds. ens the surface. This is' due to the These figures indicate an immense increase in opium eating. In 1876 it was estimated that the number of people having the habit was 225,000, and now it is thought to be fully 500,000. Some persons become so accustomed to the drug as to take immense doses. A Missouri farmer took forty grains of morphia at once without apparent injury, and there are several cases reported in which sixty grains a day were taken

The following advertisement recently appeared in a Philadelphia paper Wanted-A boy about seventeen years old to run a steam engine. No men need apply." The reflections which this advertisement suggests are not agreeable. In commenting upon it the Christian era the amount of gold ob- Philadelphia Record asserts that a large number of boilers in that city are left wholly, or in part, to the care of boys, and that, " although the department of boiler inspection is empowered to examine such applicants as may present themselves, and to certify to their abilities, it cannot compel a single steam-

The great wheat exporters of Russia are becoming alarmed at the tremendous competition they have to encounter. Hungary and the Danubian principalities were the first to appear in the Western markets, but the construction very striking pattern. He presented of a railway to Odessa restored the equilibrium. Then the American competition commenced, and has rained the inhabitants of the wheat-producing districts of the Muscovite empire. Wheat is abundant in the interiormore so than for many years past-but there is scarcely any communication with the seaboard. The great military railways run right through the country, but there are few feeding lines. The though, unlike his foreign brother, he roads and canals and the care of the wheat in transport are in as primitive a state as when Russia had no competitor in the field. If a prompt move is not made by the government-which is scarcely to be expected at present-Russian wheat will soon be driven out of the Western markets by United States enterprise and the new field opening

> Among the gigantic enterprises of the wide importance can compare with the proposed construction of a ship canal cross the Peninsula of Florida. All the railroads and canals of the country are not sufficient to carry more than a third of the grain products of the country to the seaboard. Nearly twenty millions of tons cannot reach a market, The Mississippi valley is capable of ities for transporting cotton, tobacco in the shape and other articles to market are entirely dog-stealer.

inadequate. The farmers of several of the trans-Mississippi States have to pay ten cents a bushel more for carrying their wheat to the seaboard than it costs the farmers in California to send theirs around Cape Horn to the city of New York. Such are the dangers of the Gulf of Mexico that sending freights around Florida is impracticable as a relief measure. To send cotton by rail from Montgomery to Savannah, and thence by an ocean vessel to New York, costs about \$28 a bale. A ship will carry it around the Florida peninsula and thence to New York at somewhat less rate, but at greater risk. The ship canal will reduce freight charges at

What Bees Accomplish.

By far the most serious difficulty in the process of honey collecting by bees arises from the extremely minute quantity of nectar which each flower yields. and from its being dilute-in some cases so poor in saccharine matter that its sweetness is not appreciable to the tongue. The strength of the sugary fluid varies in different flowers, and even in the same flower at different times. Consequently the most direct way of estimating the yield of honey is to ascertain the actual quantity of sugar in each flower. This can easily be done by chemical methods. If we take a large number of flowers, wash out their nectar, and determine the sugar in the solution, we can calculate from the number of flowers used the average amount of sugar in each flower with the greatest precision.

Experiments conducted in this way showed each flower of the fuchsia to ontain little more than the tenth part of a grain of sugar. In monkshood the amount was rather less than the tenth of a grain, while in the everlasting pea it was found three-twentieths of a grain for each flower. In smaller flowers the quantity is proportionately less. Thus ach flower of the little naturalized American water-blink only contained six-hundredths of a grain, and in those minute flowers which grow together in compact masses the amount was still smaller. A raceme, consisting of twenty flowers of the vetch, only yielded five-hundredths of a grain, or little over one five-hundredth for each floret. One head of common red clover gave a little over one-tenth of a grain (exactly 0.1224). Now, each head of clover contains about sixty distinet flower tubes, each of which must therefore have a portion of sugar not exceeding the one five hundredth part of a grain. The proboscis of the bee must consequently be inserted into five hundred clover tubes before one grain of There are sugar can be obtained. 7,000 grains in a pound, so that for every pound of sugar procured in this way 3,500,000 flower tubes must be emptied. Honey, however, only contains three-fourths of its weight of dry sugar; so that every pound of honey is equivalent to more than two and a half millions of clover tubes sucked by bees! -Good Words.

A Japanese Ragpicker.

Among the novel objects in the wonderful city of Tokio none are more interesting to the foreigner than the people who earn their living on the streets. These industrious creatures come and go at stated periods, have their regular haunts, attract attention by their peculiar dress and strange cries, and play an important part in the comedy of the city

At dawn, long before the shopkeepers have quitted their mats, the kamikndzu hiori (paper emerges from his squalid hut and com mences his rounds. He is usually an old, old man, clad in patches and shreds, and wears a very broad-brimmed reed hat, while, for sanitary or other reasons, his nose and mouth are covered with a ragged blue towel, people of his class being no longer compelled thus to conceal their faces. Upon his left side he carries a huge but light basket, and in his right hand two long bamboo rods, used like tongs. He seldom speaks to any one, goes about his work in a systematic manner, and is to Tokio what the ragpicker is to New York, generally confines himself to the collection of waste paper, not a scrap of which escapes his ferret-like eyes.

Having formerly belonged to the despised Eta class he is very humble, and bows to all the well-dressed persons he encounters. As he silently moves along the street he carefully turns over every little pile of rubbish with his sticks, and, picking out the pieces of paper, jerks them into his capacious receptacle. It is wonderful how dexterously he present day there are few that in world- handles the instruments, one moment using them to tear a nuttering fragment of placard from a fence, and the next inserting them between the bars of a window and filehing a book carelessly left in sight by its owner. He is a wary, thievish old rascal, and many a boy's kite and servant-girl's novel that have mysteriously disappeared from the house have found their way into his producing three times as much as it basket. In addition to having a bad does at present; but even now the facil- reputation for appropriating anything in the shape of paper, he is said to be a