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POETRY.

THE BREWING OF SOMA.
The frosts blazed, the green curls' smoke
Up through the chimney rose...

And in that child-world's early year,
Ere after age has driven
By music, income, vigils dress...

THE STORY-TELLER.

ARNOLD'S WIFE.

It had caused a commotion in aristocratic circles when it was known that Arnold Morford had married a nobody.
" My dear," said Mrs. Drumo to her friend...

lifting her sky blue eyes lovingly to his face. She was very pretty; a little fairy-like blonde, with a complexion like a miniature painting...
" Well, Ettie, love in a cottage is not to be our lot, sweet though it is. My father is a man who counts his money in hundreds of thousands, my sisters are the wives of men of large wealth...

the eyelids was long conquered; but the ennobling expression of maternity had replaced these, and the dignity of the young matron well became the young figure.
" It had long been conceded that if Mrs. Morford was not especially well versed in small-talk, scandal and flirting, that she was more than usually well read, and could converse easily and gracefully with men whose society was esteemed an honor...

Monolith Temples.
The largest existing monolith temple in Egypt—i. e., a temple hewed out of a single block of granite—is that of Tel-el-el, on the Delta. It is 21 feet 9 inches high, 13 feet broad, and 11 feet 7 inches deep. Large as this structure is, it was exceeded by that of Amasis, which was also on the Delta, and which Herodotus states required three years to transport, with the aid of 2,000 laborers, from Elephantine to Saïs, a distance of twenty days' Nileotic navigation...

Grand Jury Stories.
Col. T. W. Knox, in Scribner's for March, has an article on the famous New York Grand Jury of which he was a member. We quote from it as follows:
Not many days after we were convened, a case that touched the heart of every man in the room was brought before us. A young girl had been accused of theft; a few dollars in money had been stolen; it was found in her possession. The complainant was a woman, and the accused had been in her employ...

The Power of Chemistry.
The last example of the power of chemistry will be found in the immense prairies of La Plata and Australia. Here wander innumerable flocks of sheep and cattle; a vigorous vegetation, favored by a warm climate and the humid soil, emanates from the sea provides abundance of nourishment to animals prosper and multiply amazingly. The South American hunters are numerous also; and the number of cattle killed every month may be counted by hundreds of thousands, so that the wonder is that they do not wholly disappear. In former days, this rough sport was carried on for the sake of the hides and wool only; but now the skins are too difficult to transport and preservation for this rudimentary trade, and lay abandoned on the spot. Some persons interested themselves to utilize more fully these waste and strays of the chase. At first, it was proposed to export the bones to England and France. In civilized countries they have acquired a commercial value which covers the price of the freight; they are largely used by the cutlers; gelatine is extracted from them; by burning them, the substance is obtained which clarifies sugar; phosphorus is made from them, and lastly, they furnish the most valuable manure for the agriculturalist. As for the skins, the country not offering the necessary resources for the establishment of tanneries they were exported in a fresh state. A new agent, phenic acid, preserved them from any alteration during the voyage. It is the best antiseptic known; there is no animal fermentation which can resist it, no putrefaction that it does not arrest. After this, there only remained the flesh to perish for want of suitable means of preservation. The employment of phenic acid could not be thought of; excellent as it is for the purification of stables, houses, and hospitals, it does not answer for articles of food. Though it has been purified so as to obtain colorless crystals, it always has an odor of the coal-tar from which it is extracted, which gives a flavor to the meat. In default of a modern antiseptic, another was tried—common salt; but no decisive result was obtained; it did not give complete security, and it did not yet appear possible economically to preserve the meat which was largely consumed in England and Germany; it is used in the navy and in distant colonies where food is difficult to obtain; but in France, where refinement of taste is greater, the success has not been so general. This is the manner in which it is prepared; the process is very simple, and suited to the primitive state of the country. After the animal is killed, the meat is cut in very small pieces, and in a small quantity of water; this is boiled for a quarter of an hour, when the whole is thrown into a linen cloth, and the liquid which passes through is the beef-tea in its normal state. There is, however, too large a proportion of water, and some fat, which would interfere with its keeping. The hydraulic press is applied to the mass of meat which is left after straining; and thus pressed it forms a sort of cake, which is considered to be exhausted of all eatable particles; a residue which at some future time will probably be turned to a useful purpose. The liquid is again heated, and the fat being carefully skimmed off the top, it is boiled down to one-sixth of its original volume, and brought to the consistency of extract by the application of heat. Contact with the air in the vessel where a vacuum has been made by means of a pneumatic pump. Nothing more is wanting but to pour it into jars hermetically closed, and sealed with a leaden seal, to preserve them from adulteration.

Ab Oeh, of San Francisco, Mongol, while being prepared for the grave, Chinese fashion, was burned on the forehead with a white-hot poker, when he rose to explain. He was only in a trance.
A writer says that more than 150,000 acres of the best timber in America are cut every year to supply the demand for railway sleepers alone. In a single year the locomotives in the United States consumed \$90,000,000 worth of wood.
The total number of hogs packed in the West for the season just closed was 4,820,555, against 3,695,251 the previous season, being an increase of 1,125,304. Of the number packed in Illinois, 1,579,527; Chicago packers make returns of over 1,200,000.
The bullion production of the Pacific States and Territories for 1869 and 1870 averages from \$70,000,000 to \$75,000,000. There is reason to believe that last year it reached \$80,000,000, and there is good ground for expecting that this year it will aggregate from \$90,000,000, and may possibly reach \$100,000,000.
The land of Dakota is largely prairie, ranging from one-third "bottom" and "bench" lands, one-third gently sloping, dry, rich and productive higher prairie, to one-third more rolling and elevated prairie, part of which is second or third class in quality. The timber is found along the streams and in places otherwise protected from prairie fires.
The Western States are now deliberating whether the disfigurement of a wife's complexion by small-pox ought not to be added to the list of legal grounds for divorce. The question has been brought up by the action of several sensible Chicagoans, who claim to be justified in deserting their better halves for this reason; and it is plausibly argued that since much less obnoxious conduct on a man's part is daily admitted as good cause for freeing his wife from nuptial bonds, she ought not to be allowed to pit herself against him for life without any chance of his escaping.

The Chinese carte de visite is a curiosity. It consists of a huge sheet of bright scarlet paper, with the owner's name inscribed in large letters—the bigger the more exquisite. For extra grand occasions this card is folded ten times, the name is written in the right hand lower corner with a humiliating prefix like "your very stupid brother," "your unworthy friend who bows his head and pays his respects," etc., etc., the words "your stupid!" taking the place of our "yours respectfully." It is etiquette to return these cards to the visitor, it being presumed that their expense is too great for general distribution.
There is an embryo showman out in Virginia City, Nevada, who has already made his mark in the town. He is an interesting boy of nine summers, who painted his little brother in the latest style of the fierce Sioux, and exhibited him as a captured son of "Spotted Tail" at 25 cents a ticket. The exhibition was a great success, and the juvenile Barnum was drawing in the quarters at a rapid rate, when his mother came to see the show and recognized her offspring through the red ochre and lamp-black, whereupon, circumstances over which the young manager had no control, put an end to his great enterprise for the entertainment of his fellow citizens.
A Western editor, during the late frozen period, thus accounts for the death of local news in his paper: "Our reporter started out this afternoon in search of local items. After an unusually long absence he returned; but, alas! in a most deplorable condition—frozen stiff as a poker and unable to get into the office. We stood him up against the wall behind the stove, and ordered the 'devil' to pile on the fuel. We finally succeeded in prying his mouth open with the ash shovel, when a dose or so of words fell out upon the floor and broke into pieces. We set the 'devil' at work putting the pieces together, and he finally reported the following as the result of his labor: 'Coldest of the winter, the snow has been frozen stiff; saloon keepers selling hot whiskies by the stick.'"
A Kentucky country paper gives the following: Recently one of our most excellent housewives had occasion to send to Louisville for a cook. The latter in a few days put in her appearance, arrayed, apparently, in a large quantity of cast-off masquerade finery of the Queen of Sheba; dilapidated paniers, flounces, hoops, pokers with a stunning head-dress, that would have fitted the Queen of Hayti—jute curls, ringlets, frizzes, chignons, and rats in alarming profusion. The former looked on the new-comer in astonishment, and when sufficiently recovered, informed her that she did not think she would suit as mistress for the kitchen, as her appearance indicated that it would take three-quarters of the day to get up her elaborate head-toilette alone. "Why, la, ma'am, I never could my head," was the response. The fashionable cook returned to Louisville.
A writer has taken the trouble to give the actual material used in constructing a pianoforte. In every instrument there are fifteen kinds of wood—viz., pine, maple, spruce, cherry, walnut, white-walnut, apple, basswood and birch, all of which are indigenous; and mahogany, ebony, holly, cedar, beech and rosewood, from Honduras, Ceylon, England, South America and Germany. In this combination elasticity, strength, pliability, toughness, resonance, lightness, durability and beauty are individual qualities, and the general result is voice. There are also used of the metals, iron, steel, brass, white metal, gun metal and lead. There are in the same instrument of seven and a half octaves, when completed, two hundred and fourteen strings, making a total length of seven hundred and eighty-seven feet of steel wire, and five hundred feet of white covering wire. Such a piano will weigh from nine hundred to one thousand pounds, and will last, with constant use (not abuse), fifteen or twenty years.

England has 32,623 breweries.