WHITTIER'S LATEST POEM.

The old 'Squire said, as he stood by his gate,
And his neighbor, the Deacon, went by;
"In spite of my bank stock and real estate,
You are better off, Deacon, than I.

"We're both growing old, and the end's drawing near;
You have less of this world to resign,
But in Heaven's appraisal your assets, I fear,
Will reckon up greater than mine.

"They say I am rich, but I'm feeling so poor,
I wish I could swop with you even
The pounds I have lived for and laid up in store
For the shillings and pence you have given."

"Well, 'Squire," said the Deacon, with shrewd common sense,
While his eye had a twinkle of fun,
"Let your pounds take the way of my shillings and pence,
And the thing can be easily done."

"AHEAD OF TIME."

"Now I'm going to show you why I struck out for myself."

I had been driving a mile or two with my cheery friend, Dr. Mary Stedman, and until that moment was not aware of any motive for the ride than the usual one of pleasure to us both.

"I have a warm place in my heart for my native Vermont," she went on; "and knowing how I love it, I am sure you have often wondered why I did not remain here instead of seeking a home and a profession for myself among strangers."

I had often speculated on this very subject, but there was no time to confess it, for at that moment my companion reined up suddenly, and with a brisk "Here we are!" jumped from the carriage.

"This," pointing to a weather-[illegible] brother lived here. You needn't be at all disturbed," as I naturally hesitated about intruding among strangers, "for my sister-in-law expects us."

"How cool! how neat! how shady and comfortable!" were my first exclamations as I followed my leader into the old fashioned parlor.

"Just so," she responded drily. "And my dear, you might hunt from cellar to garret at this great house, and though you stood upon ladders, and peered with a microscope upon your hands and knees, you would never be able to find a fly."

"Mrs. Steadman looked as her sister-in-law had described her—like a very sad and troubled ghost." She was painfully thin and haggard, and at least dozen times during our short call I noticed her mournful eyes filled with tears.

"Well, Sarah," said the doctor, "you are as busy as ever, I suppose?"

"Oh, yes," our hostess replied; "there is never any end to work."

"Been making butter to-day?"

"I made a little over forty pounds this morning."

"Before breakfast, I suppose?"

The doctor's tone was somewhat crisp.

"I churned at four, and have just worked my butter over. I don't mind so much when churning doesn't come on washing days; and, you see cream has to be attended to whenever it is ready."

"Been washing, too?" my friend inquired.

"Oh, yes! And it did seem as if I had every garment in the tub that there was in the house."

"So you've made forty pounds of butter," said the doctor, "washed and what else?"

"Not much else besides the regular work. I picked some beans for dinner and made a few pies; that's all."

At this point my friend, much to my surprise, turned the conversation into other channels, and soon after we took our leave.

"It seems to me you have neglected an opportunity," I remarked as soon as we had driven away.

"I supposed you would think so," my companion answered, "but you can form no conception of the amount of breath I have wasted on that very case. I am regarding it solely from a scientific standpoint. I think I can calculate the length of that woman's days within a fraction of time."

"I should think your brother wouldn't allow his wife to work so," I remarked.

"What does he know about it?" said the doctor. "He comes into the house for the three meals that are prepared for him, and when night comes he goes to bed and to sleep, or he drives over to the village and spends his evenings with his friends. My brother works hard, but he works out of doors and that saves him. Sarah has an excellent reputation as wife and housekeeper all over the country. She has helped my brother 'lay up'—in Vermont vernacular—several thousand dollars. It doesn't take a prophet to see that another wife will have the benefit of this one's toil, though it is probable if she comes from this part of the country, she will not have sense enough to be benefited by anything."

"If your sister-in-law would only have a servant," I suggested.

"A servant! why, what a greenhorn you are!" said the doctor. "Do you think my brother and his wife are strong enough to bear the finger of scorn, that would inevitably be pointed at them should they employ a servant? It is far better my dear, to work one's self to death than to be called lazy, and shiftless, and extravagant. If this were not the case they would think they could afford a servant. My brother is dominated, soul and body, by the spirit of economy, and his wife is a reflection of himself. Here we are again," my friend continued, coming to a stop before the door of a more modern and more pretentious mansion. "My youngest sister lives here. It seems singular, doesn't it that I have never introduced you to my relatives before? The truth is you and I are perplexities to these good people. We turn them out of their beaten tracks for a while, with no other results than to add to their hard work and anxiety. Ten years ago my sister Anna was as healthy a girl as there was in Vermont, and the brightest and wittiest in the family. I had some hopes that she would keep out of the treadmill, and, if she did marry a farmer, and settle down here, that she would furnish an example of commonsense to her neighbors; but she is just like the rest, only worse perhaps."

All this as the doctor hitched her horse and we walked up the long graveled walk.

Sister Anna was scolding one of her children when we entered the house and we were upon her before she had finished her harangue.

"I don't believe anyone ever had such contrary youngsters as I have got?" she remarked, apologetically. "They do worry me sometimes that it seems to me I should enjoy myself in my grave."

"Send a couple of them to me, Anna, whenever you feel like parting with them," said the doctor.

"I would in a minute if their father was willing," the lady replied. "I don't know how to bring up children," she added, "and if I did know I haven't any time. To tell the truth I have such a pain in my side all the time that I'm not fit for anything. I wish you would give me some of that medicine, Mary, that you gave me last summer."

"I suppose you work just as hard, Anna, as though you hadn't any pain in your side, the doctor remarked.

"Of course I do," was the somewhat irritable response. "Who else is there to do it if I give up?"

"Where is the pain, Anna; how long have you had it?"

The doctor's tones were even, and her manner so balmy pofessional that I had at the time no suspicion that any of it was assumed.

"It is under my left shoulder blade," her sister replied, "and I haven't drawn a long breath since last November. Sometimes it is worse that others, and I am conscious of it every minute."

The doctor drew a chair to her sister's side, and took her hand in hers.

"Dear me, Mary, my pulse is all right," said the invalid, doing her best to make light of the situation.

"How many men does your husband hire this summer, Anna?" the doctor inquired, as she prepared some medicine.

"Only six this summer."

"And you cook and wash for them, I suppose?"

"Of course."

"How many cows have you?"

"Fourteen."

"And you make butter for market?"

Sister Anna smiled as she answered this question.

"I average about sixty pounds a week."

"What time do you get up in the morning?"

"About 4 o'clock."

"What time do you go to bed?"

"Anywere from 10 to 12," and then with a glance in my direction. "You see, farmers have to keep ahead of time. If they didn't do this they couldn't lay up anything to save their lives."

"Anna," said the doctor, taking no notice of the above remark, "I intend to stay in Vermont a month, unless I am needed in New York. Would you like me to take charge of your case during that time?"

"My case!" her sister repeated, in great perplexity. "I don't suppose I shall need anything more than that medicine."

"I will gladly do all I can for you. Anna," the doctor resumed, "and when I am compelled to go back I will leave you in good hands, but it must be on condition of the most perfect obedience on your part. You have hard coughing spells every morning, do you not?"

"Yes, Mary, but how in the world did you know that?"

"No matter how I know it. That I do know is sufficient. To begin with, Anna, your husband must find other places for his workmen, and someone must be found immediately to do your housework and you must go to bed every evening at eight o'clock, and remain in bed until after breakfast. You must have all sorts of nourishing food, and pork and cod fish must be eliminated from your bill of fare."

"Mary, what do you mean?"

There was a look of terror in the poor woman's eyes, and her lips quivered painfully.

"I mean if you do exactly what I tell you you may get well; if not, it is impossible," the doctor replied. "If you think I am exaggerating, or dont know what I am talking about, send for any reputable physician you please and ask him to tell you the truth."

"Oh, Mary! There isn't any way of doing the thing you mentioned. Clarke feels awfully poor this summer, and I have been trying harder than ever to make the end lap over."

"Where is Clarke," the doctor inquired.

"He is down at the creek, haying."

"I will drive down and have a talk with him right away," said my friend making ready to leave.

"Oh, Mary! Don't you think there is another way?"

"The poor woman had broken down completely now, and the doctor held her for a moment, in her strong arms and caressed her kindly.

"No other way, sis," she replied; "but we will do the best we can. There is no telling what a good rest and careful nursing may do for your tired body, my dear."

"I was going to take you to some other places," the doctor remarked, as we drove away, "but it would have been the same old story; work, work, work, without rest or change from year's end to year's end to years end. My mother killed herself by her attempts to get ahead of time. Two sisters have traveled the same road that Anna has started on, one of them absolutely dropped dead in the kitchen in the midst of her work. This is the kind of thing I could not endure to see go on. I knew it was all wrong as soon as I knew anything, and when I became old enough to have a voice in my own education I persisted in taking a different course. My sister Anna has tried so hard to get ahead of time and make things 'lap over' that she has abused and probably killed herself, besides criminally neglecting and mismanaging her children. I don't suppose she has had five hours sleep out of the twenty-four during the last five years, and think of that amount of rest for a woman whose brain and muscle are forever in use! Every year I come up here and find things going from bad to worse among my relatives and most of my friends, and the horrible part of it is that nothing one can say or do will ever have the slightest effect."

"Don't you think your very natural anxiety about your sister may have colored your diagnosis a little?" I inquired.

"Not in the least," my companion answered. "Anna's pulse was one hundred and twelve. The respiration was labored and ominously frequent. There is no mistaking such signs."

"How could she keep at work with such a pulse as that?" I asked.

"By the exercise of will power," said the doctor. "In our family will power is a direct inheritance. If it could only have been put to good use, how much might have been accomplished! My dear, this will power eats salt pork when good beef and the most nutritious food are absolute necessities. It makes all its cream into butter that the cash may lay over. It drinks skim milk, and works nineteen hours of the twenty-four."

Soon after this the doctor dropped me at my boarding house.

"Now you know all about it," she remarked in parting, "and if any one ever asks you why Mary Stedman did not remain among her relatives you can say that she declined to live among criminals and suicides."

Five months after the above incident sister Anna died, and one year from the date the widower married again. The second wife was a duplicate of the first, working night and day and laying up for a fortune which it is more than likely she never will enjoy.

The Strawberry Bed.

Just before Winter sets in the strawberry bed needs attention. There are always some undesirable plants that have escaped the hoe which are hardy enough to endure the frost and continue to grow until the ground freezes. Such plants show themselves more readily after a few cold nights have killed a portion of the leaves of the strawberry vines. When they are thus made to be readily seen is a good time to root them out; for if they are permitted to remain over Winter they will be ready to grow as soon as the frost leaves the ground in the Spring, and by their early rapid growth very much reduce the crop of fruit.

Among those plants which do the most mischief may be named sorrel and twitch or couch grass. The former often comes from the seed in such countless numbers that, unless the ground is kept well hoed during the entire month of September, it is difficult to remove it later in the season without very much disturbing the vines. The latter, if the land is well hoed during August, will no make much headway, as it propagates itself principally from roots. The few roots that have escaped the hoe are easily pulled out. White clover sometimes makes its appearance in such quantities that some of the small roots will escape the hoe only to appear later in the season. As soon as discovered they should be carefully pulled out, or they will, before the strawberry season comes, grow to a size to injure the crop. After the ground freezes and before the winter weather sets in the vines should be protected from the extreme cold winds with some covering that does not lie close enough to prevent the circulation of air. As a portion of the leaves remain green during the entire winter, if they are covered too close the vines are killed. Various materials are used for covering. Among these may be named corn stalks, rye straw, hay and evergreen boughs. The last named are said by those who have tried them to be one of the best materials, especially if the boughs be from cedar trees. In using this material the branches should not be too large, nor should they be so small as to lay close enough to prevent the circulation of air among the vines. After a heavy snow branches from one to two feet in length are about the right sile.—*New England Farmer.*

Breeds of Sheep.

The agricultural editor of the New York *Times* discourses as follows about the breeds of sheep:

"The Lincoln and Leicester sheep, which have been bred to take on fat enormously, have been tried here and have failed. The Cotswold is the best of this class of sheep, but without high and special feeding it produces but poor mutton. Turnips make the best flavored mutton, and grass upon permanent pasture, luxuriant and thick in growth, is required to build up the frame, which turnips and concentrated food shall fill out to the desired weight and rotundity. The Cotswold here has had its day and the popular fancy is now for the Hampshires, Oxfords Shropshires and Southdowns. These all belong to one class of sheep and all have the distinguishing sign of black or partly black faces and legs, and American farmers who desire to go into sheep must choose one or another of these four breeds. Our one American sheep is a wool sheep, good for very little as mutton; and yet a well-bred and well-fed Merino produces mutton but little inferior to that of the vaunted Southdown. It is food, and not breed, that makes meat. and if we should feed our grade Merinos as well as the English farmers feed their Southdowns—giving the juicy, high-flavored Swede turnip with plenty of corn and hay—we could show as fine legs and saddles and as high-flavored meat as the English farmer can with his "downs." But sheep, like the prophet, have no honor in their own country and among their own people and foreign breeds take precedence of the natives. This is to be greatly deplored, because so long shall we produce second-class mutton, and so long shall we depened upon English breeders for our sheep and continue to import, at a high price, instead of producing our own. And, of course, this practice will prevent the cheapness of this meat which is desirable and is necessary to make mutton popular."

The Cotswold and Shropshire appear at the present time to be in the lead, the former the favorite, although the authority quoted above states that it has had its day.

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HENRY KNOCHE.

About Shoe Heels.

It is said a man can always tell a sensible woman by the heels of her boot. There is the high heel, hooked in under the instep, which indicates giddiness, bad taste and a want of culture; then there is the medium heel, which indicates a desire for fashion, and yet an objection to excess; then there is the lady-like, small heel, slightly curved, not quite so low as the heel of a man's boot, but yet low enough, and placed in the proper position for comfort; that indicates good breeding, good sense, and delicacy. Young men should know this, and judge accordingly.

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feb18

AUDITOR'S NOTICE.

Estate of John Poorbaugh, dec'd.

The undersigned having been appointed auditor to distribute the funds in the hands of Samuel and Mathias Poorbaugh, Administrators of said dec'd, to and among those legally entitled thereto, will attend to the duties of said appointment, at his office, in Somerset, Thursday, January 8th, 1882, when all parties interested may attend.

GEO. R. SCULL,
Auditor.
dec 22

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1882. 1882

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FOR 1882.

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Rural New Yorker (weekly)	2 75	4 25
American Home (monthly)	2 00	4 00
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Atlantic Monthly	4 00	5 00
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