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Regardless of Denunciation from any Quarter.—GOV. POSTER.

BY E. S. GOODRICH & SON.

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Campbell's Edinburgh Journal.]
found in a Mummy.
The following paragraph lately appeared in most of the newspapers:—
"THREE THOUSAND YEARS OLD.—A friend of the Earl of Devon having an occasion to unroll an Egyptian mummy, was surprised to find a few grains of wheat in the body; and having presented to his lordship's seeds, it was sent to the magnificent seat of Tynan, in East Lothian, and sown in the spot in the kitchen garden, first of November of last year, in the kindness of his lordship's Mr. Ford, we have been favored with a sight of the produce of these interesting seeds; and as an imperfect account of them has been in a contemporary, we venture before our readers the following description of them:—Although there may be nearly a hundred ranging in length from nearly upwards of six feet. The leaves are larger than usual, and fully an inch in length. The grain is in ears of triplets, and one or two counted contained twenty triplets or forty on the ear. There are a few awns on the grain, and it is open and distant between the grains. It flowered nearly a month before any of the varieties of the same period in the neighborhood. A few grains of the Egyptian wheat were sown along with the other seeds, and certainly no two articles were so dissimilar. The modern wheat is more than four feet high, and barbed in every part, and its general resemblance to the progenitor is not greater than that of barley to wheat."
The circumstance is by no means unprecedented. Seeds, have on former occasions been obtained from Egyptian mummies, in all instances, when sown, have produced. In at least one instance seeds were found in the body of the mummy, and they germinated. Some circumstances not greatly dissimilar are mentioned in the history of Antonine, which had been pierced by the well-diggers. By what convulsion of the elements they had been thrown there, or how long they had quietly slept beneath the surface of the earth, must be determined by those who know very much more than I do. A very little knowledge of geology is sufficient to throw some light on the history of these seeds. The sand in which they were found was probably one of the superficial strata, which, though recently compared with others, are old with regard to our chronology. The seeds had probably grown on a coast near the sea which lay down the sand, and thus were placed in a tomb which was destined to preserve them for numberless ages.
Seeds are also known to preserve the germinating power, and plants are known to flourish, in circumstances which all analogy would show to be calculated to destroy them. A lake dries up, and immediately a crop of plants springs from seeds long kept dormant in the mud at the bottom.—What is called red snow consists of a cryptogame plant, which of course resists the effects of a temperature below the freezing point. The *Ulex thymalis* luxuriates in springs on the verge of the ebullition of water, and the *Vitis agnus castus* will grow with its roots sustained in hot water. The roots of ginger that had been previously scalded here: into vegetation on the voyage to England. A *Chara* was found in the boiling springs and steam of the Geysers of Iceland not only in flower, but perfecting its seeds. Kidney beans, after being exposed to the parching heat of an oven, grew well enough, and even malted barley has been known to germinate. In one instance, the seeds of elderberries, after being boiled, produced elder trees that are still growing, and seeds from strawberry jam have produced plants and fruit. Sir John Herschel discovered that the seeds of the acacia-lophanta grew very well after being steeped for twelve hours in water at 140 degrees Fahrenheit, and Ludwig found that those of a kind of cedar did not germinate until they had been first thoroughly boiled. In the island of Tanna, Forster found the soil within the precincts of the volcano, though burning hot, carpeted with flowers. In the Ozark mountains in North America, there is a chain of about seventy hot springs, some of them having a temperature as high as 148 to 151

degrees, yet containing confervæ and other vegetables. The confervæ have been found in other instances in water little less hot. A plant of phormium tenax (the celebrated New Zealand flax) in one of the conservatories of the Jardin des plantes, was, in consequence of an extensive conflagration, apparently reduced to a mass of charcoal; yet, like a vegetable phoenix, a new plant arose from its ashes, and now lives.—An elder near Matlack was cut down and placed under a stack, where, after remaining some time, it was reduced to charcoal over a great part of its surface, in consequence of a fire which seized the grain placed above it. It then became a gate post, and in this situation budded, and soon was a thriving tree once more. But even in the craters of Etna, amid sulphury vapor, and a temperature of 100 degrees, certain plants have been seen flourishing.
There is a similar tenacity of life in certain of the humbler animals. It is affirmed that living insects have been found within the bodies of Egyptian mummies; and the statement may be received with little hesitation, when we know that, on the opening of the stone coffin of King John in Worcester cathedral, larvae were discovered in the body, with one of which an angler baited his hook and caught a fish. The skull of the patriot Hampden, on his grave being opened a few years ago, was also full of larvae. Bomors found that eggs, after having remained hermetically excluded from air in a wall for three hundred years, were quite fresh. The roe of fishes has been thoroughly dried and preserved for a considerable time; yet when cast into water, it has become pregnant with life. The eggs of the slug, when dried by the rays of the sun or by artificial heat, shrivel up to minute points, only distinguishable by the microscope; yet, if they be moistened by a shower of rain, or put into water, they are restored to their former plumpness, and do not lose their fertility. It has been found that, after being treated eight times in this manner, the eggs were hatched. The anadonta rubens, an aquatic molluscous animal, will live eight months after the water is dried up, and even when constantly exposed to the rays of a vertical sun. These singular facts explain the sudden appearance of the fry of fish, &c., in pools and other collections of water, that have long been dry, as soon as the reservoirs are replenished by rain. The silk has been reeled off the cocoon of the silk worm in boiling water without killing the pupa within. The larvae of the musca chamæleon sports through the hot springs of the Brins de la Loche, and perish in water of a lower temperature. Humboldt relates an anecdote of a hovel having been built by chance, built over a spot where a young crocodile reposed in suspended animation, in the hardened mud. And he mentions that the Indians often find enormous hoas in the same lethargic state, which revive when irritated, or wetted with water. Again, the opposite extreme of a temperature below the freezing point is sufficient to injure some animals. From October to April the snail remains in a lethargic state, buried in the earth, with its shell hermetically sealed up by a calcareous membrane. In some very severe winters, as that of 1795, it has been found completely frozen, and yet has revived on being exposed to a mild temperature.—During Sir John Ross's voyage, thirty larvae of the moth, named Larra Rossii were put into a box and exposed to the winter temperature for three months; on being brought into the cabin, every one of them returned to life and walked about. They were again exposed to a temperature of 40 degrees below zero, and instantly became re-frozen; after a week they were again brought into the cabin, when twenty-three returned to life. It is also proved that adders frozen so as to be brittle, bees which on the slightest pressure would crumble to dust, fishes enclosed in masses of ice (as was the case with some taken by Sir John Franklin from the Coppermine river) all revive on being gradually thawed. Spallanzani kept frogs, salamanders, and snakes, in an ice-house for three years and a half, and they readily returned to life when exposed to the influence of a warm atmosphere. On this subject the following extract from the *Dibliothèque Universelle* (1840) seems authoritative:—In the winter of 1828-9 in Ireland, Gamiard found that toads could be completely frozen, so that ice lay in small pieces between their muscles, their bodies became quite hard, stiff, and motionless, broke easily, and without any effusion of blood, so that, in short, every trace of life disappeared, and yet in ten or twelve mi-

minutes they could be revived by immersing them in very slightly warmed water. If they were not quickly frozen they did not revive." When we find such to be the case, the credulity which has been shown with regard to the many reported instances of toads found possessed of life in sandstone strata where they must have been entombed for ages, appears to rest on no good foundation. Some of these instances have been well authenticated; and there is no difficulty in supposing that, if life, will continue three and a half years in a frozen animal, it may last indefinitely. Probably the toad was dormant or frozen when enclosed. And being excluded from the atmosphere, the prolongation of its life might be simply owing to the impossibility of any reviving influence ever reaching it; so that in fact, there was no necessary end to its existence in such circumstances. The hardy vitality of these creatures, and the others mentioned above, is obviously connected with that languor of the circulation which makes their respiration so slow. St. Hilaire, a first rate authority on such subjects, thinks there may exist, for such creatures, "a state of neutrality intermediate between life and death—a state into which certain animals are plunged, in consequence of the stoppage of respiration, when it takes place under certain circumstances."—The want of food is obviously a consideration of not the least moment, when there is a complete suspension of that process of waste which food is required to supply. With regard to the preservation of vitality in seeds, nothing is required for it but a continuation of the organic character of the seed. The suspension of vital action in them depends, says Dr. Carpenter, "on their not being submitted to any of the agents which would tend to disintegrate their structure."
Early Milking.
Does your cow kick? Do not fly into a passion and pound her with a hand-spike or trim her with a gal or a cow-hide, or vent your spite by kicking her in turn. You will only spill a great deal of vengeance uselessly, causing great wear and tear of temper; make yourself feel very foolish when you get over it, and set a bad example to your children, while your cow, in seventy cases out of seventy-one, will kick as bad as before, or worse. If she is a heifer, you will infallibly reach her to kick; as her kicking, in the first instance was from pain, or some such cause, of which she would be cured by simply paying no attention to it. A heifer never kicks from principle. If she is an old cow, your thrashing will generally be thrown away. Just keep philosophical, and try other means. Make a pen of just such size that the cow can comfortably stand in it, and no more. This you can do in the corner of your yard, by setting down three posts, and boarding them up fence-like, leaving it open at the end to drive in the cow. Let a space be left open at the side where you wish to milk. Put your cow into it, and fasten her in by stretching a chain across the end of the pen behind her. Then take a piece of rope, say fifteen feet long and tie one end of it to a post behind the cow and near its length distant from her, tie the other end to the leg of the animal just above her foot drawing it back as much as it would naturally be for her to be milked. Then sit down and milk the cow at your leisure. It will take a man half an hour perhaps, to make the pen; and when once made, it is very little more trouble than to milk without. She may object to going into it once or twice, but will afterwards give no trouble. This we recommend only, however, when a man has an animal, valuable otherwise, which will kick, and which he wishes to keep. A poor cow that will kick, is too great a nuisance to think of keeping at all. If you are afflicted with a kicking cow, try it; and you will not regret.—*Prairie Farmer.*

A Visit to an English Cottage.
I entered a third cabin. Here the green earth smiled again, as did the modest furze and glossy holly, that felt not the approach of winter. The floor was much like the first. Near the middle sat the mother peeling potatoes, which she threw into a pot at her side half filled with water. I introduced myself on every occasion, by saying, that I came from beyond the seas, and wished to inform my countrymen how the laborers lived in England. Sixpence brought forth willing answers to interrogatories, which I put without stint.
"How many children have you?"—"Eight." "What did they feed upon this morning?" "Potatoes." "What will you give them for dinner?" "These potatoes you see me peeling." "No, nothing else." "Have you no meat, no milk, no butter for them?" She made no reply, fixed her eyes upon them and sobbed aloud. But her countenance suddenly brightened into a smile, and she said with a clear voice—"Thank God, salt is cheap." But her joy was a transient beam, for her eyes again overflowed as she shewed me her eldest daughter, fourteen years of age, whom she made rise to her feet. Her tattered garments scarcely concealed her sex; it left her bare to the knees behind, while it dangled to the ground in front. She blushed deeply, for want had not extinguished the modesty of nature, as her mother drew aside the rags that covered her snowy skin. "These," said she, "are all the clothes my child has; she cannot go to school in them; besides she is obliged to stay at home to take care of the children." This was palpably true, for her wasted form tottered under a burden that would soon add another inmate to this abode of misery.
The other children were grouped near the elder sister, sitting on the naked hearth. Their little hands and feet were red with cold; their features were set in melancholy; they were not playful, as became their innocent years; no, it has been truly said, that the children of the English poor know no childhood! Sorrow begins with life; they are disciplined to privation from the cradle.—From the cradle, did I say? I saw no cradle, and I verily believe that such a luxury was never known by the child of an English laborer.
In the corner of the chimney was an old man, sitting on his haunches, putting faggots to the fire intended to boil the potatoes. "Who is that?" "It is old Mr. —, he has no home, and we let him stay with us." He was eighty-three years of age, and partook with the children his portion of potatoes and salt.
I asked one of the little girls, where was the cat? The mother answered, they had none, "for a cat must eat." "Have you a dog?" "No, we cannot keep a dog; besides he disturbs the game." "But you have a cock to crow for day?" "No, we have none."
I felt a sort of horror come over me at the absence of these animals, sacred to every household—the cat, the companion and pastime of little children; the dog, the well tried, trusty friend of man; the cock, whose joyous song hails the coming day—yet yet poverty, that bitter, blighting curse, has expelled even these from the cottage of the English peasant.
"Can your husband read?" "Yes, he can read the easy parts of the Bible." "Can you read?" "No, I never went to school."
"How many apartments are there in your house?" "Two, one below and another." "May I go up stairs?"—She was evidently unwilling; my guide gave me a discouraging look; I persevered, and ascended a dirty, rickety flight of steps to a chamber, where the whole family slept; near a narrow broken window, stood a wadded frame on four legs, on which were laid transverse laths that supported a bed of oat-chaff, sewed up in a dirty tattered sack, over which was spread a coarse woollen sheet almost black; upon this lay two pillows of straw, and a thick striped coverlet, worn into holes. Another sack of chaff lay on the floor in a corner, over which was spread a sort of blanket torn to rags. Here slept all the children, except the two youngest, who lay with their parents. The fate of the old man at night was not made known to me, nor did I inquire.
The furniture of the apartment below consisted of a stool, on which the mother sat; a box occupied as a seat by the eldest daughter; two broken chairs, unservice for either my guide, or myself; I'm pretty good at that."
"Well then," said the farmer, coolly opening the door, "let's see you travel."

tea pot; two or three small iron vessels for cooking, and a broad table, sustained by diagonal bars, fastened with nails. On the wall, under a broken piece of plate glass, hung a white napkin, fringed at the bottom, the only testimonial of neatness that poverty could afford. The whole chattel estate, including the apparel of man, wife and children, could not be sold for ten dollars.
Aztec Sacrifices.
One of their most important festivals was that in honor of the god Tezcatlipoca, whose rank was inferior only to that of the supreme Being. He was called "the soul of the world," and supposed to have been its creator. He was depicted as a handsome man, endowed with perpetual youth. A year before the intended sacrifice, a captive, distinguished for his personal beauty, and without a blemish on his body, was selected to represent the deity.—Certain tutors took charge of him, and instructed him how to perform his new part with becoming grace and dignity. He was arrayed in a splendid dress, regaled with income and with a profusion of sweet scented flowers, of which the Mexicans were as fond as their descendants at the present day.—When he went abroad, he was attended by a train of the royal pages, and, as he halted in the streets to play some favorite melody, the crowd prostrated themselves before him, and did him homage as the representatives of their good deity. In this way he led an easy, luxurious life, till within a month of his sacrifice. Four beautiful girls, bearing the names of the principal goddesses were then selected to share the honors of his bed; and with them he continued to live in idle dalliance, feasted at the banquets of the principal nobles, who paid him all the honors of a divinity.
At length the fatal day of sacrifice arrived. The term of his short-lived glories was at an end. He was stripped of his gaudy apparel, and bade adieu to the fair partners of his revelries. One of the royal barges transported him across the lake to a temple which rose on its margin, about a league from the city. Hither the inhabitants of the capital flocked, to witness the consummation of the ceremony. As the sad procession wound up the sides of the pyramid, the unhappy victim threw away his gay chaplets of flowers, and broke in pieces the musical instruments with which he had sojourned the hours of captivity. On the summit he was received by six priests, whose long and matted locks flowed disorderly over their sable robes, covered with hieroglyphic scrolls of mystic import. They led him to the sacrificial stone, a huge block of jasper, with its upper surface somewhat convex. On this the prisoner was stretched. Five priests secured his head and his limbs, while the sixth clad in a scarlet mantle, emblematic of his bloody office, dexteriously opened the breast of the wretched victim with a sharp razor of *itlil*—a volcanic substance, hard as flint—and, inserting his hand in the wound, tore out the palpitating heart. The minister of death, first holding this up towards the sun, an object of worship throughout Atahuac, cast it at the feet of the deity to whom the temple was devoted, while the multitudes below prostrated themselves in humble adoration. The tragic story of this prisoner was expounded by the priests as the type of human destiny; which, brilliant in its commencement, too often closes in sorrow and disaster.—*Prescott's Conquest of Mexico.*

POTATOES.—The following hints upon the use of potatoes are important. Though potatoes are of great value as a nutritious and wholesome article of food, it is very important to their deserving this character that they should be mealy and in good condition, and that they should thoroughly dressed yet not overdone, and watery. Frequent opportunities of examination after death have convinced me that watery and undone potatoes are the most indigestible articles taken into the stomach as food. It must also be observed, that with individuals of very weak digestion, it is sometimes necessary to enjoin not only care as to the quality, but greatly to limit the quantity, or wholly suspend the use of potatoes, as well as other vegetables.
QUESTION IN NAVIGATION.—Suppose a canal boat heads west-north-west for the horse's tail, and has the wind abeam with a flow coming up in the south, would the captain, according to maritime law, be justified in taking a reef in the stove pipe without asking?