A Valley Memory.

Waking I dream, and dreaming see
A valley in the sunset glow,
With ranging Alps that through the haze
Thrust peaks of snow.

A blindering glare is in my eyes;
Yet, far below, I see again,
Where, golden under burning skies,
Outsweeps the plain.

The bleating and the tinkling bells,
Show where, about the water's brink,
The peasant women watch the sheep
That wade and drink.

All freshly fair and bright the scene;
But looming vast before me still
The Alps gigantic grow, and all
The picture fill.

Their spell once more is on my heart,
Their grandeurs satisfy their soul;
Naught else in life or space has part—
They make the whole.

They wrap the heavens round their forms,
Arrest the clouds upon their march,
And into gleaming ruins break
The rainbow's arch.

From the deep valley's purpling gloom
Even their summits rise sublime,
Bright with the sunsets of the world
Since Time was Time.

Farm, Garden and Household.

CRACKED HEELS, OR GREASE.—This complaint, when neglected, becomes very troublesome. Filth is its chief cause, and without the cause being removed it is impossible to cure it. In some cases the leg is swollen to the knee, and discharges offensive matter from suppurating cracks, which are open at every movement of the horse's foot. No careful horse-man, however, would permit his beast to become afflicted to this degree, for early treatment brings about a speedy and easy cure. Carbolic soap and warm water, applied three times a day, and a little glycerine to protect the cleansed surface from exposure to the air, will effect a cure. This unsightly disease should not be permitted to exist a moment longer than necessary to eradicate it. We can not imagine a man of proper self-respect allowing himself to be seen in public driving a horse suffering from it.—*Hearth and Home.*

HINTS TO HORSEMEN AND FARMERS.—Wash the beasts and all places on your horses and working cattle with a strong decoction of white-oak bark boiled down very strong. Wash a few times where the harness comes, and it will toughen the skin and prevent galls. If the harness wears the hair from your horse, have the harness properly and thoroughly soaped and cleaned, and then oiled with neat's-foot oil blackened with two tablespoonfuls of ivory-black to a quart of oil. After the oil has been on a few hours, take sponge, soap, and water, and wash off the surplus oil, and your harness will be clean to handle. Use sweet oil on patent-leather pads and blinders. Give your horses a warm bran-mash, mixed with a little salt, every Saturday night, except when green grass is fed. Clean out the gravel stones and dirt from the shoes every night with a stable hook, made of ½ inch round iron, six inches long. The hook needs to be bent only half round. Stuff the horses forefeet with cow manure, clay, and salt twice a week in dry weather. Have him shod monthly by the best of farriers, although you drive ten miles to find him. No horse can be driven freely unless his feet are in first-class order. The feet, like the foundation of building, are the first thing to look at in purchasing, and if the horse's feet are unsound, don't buy at any price. Your time is too valuable to lose with a tender-footed animal. If the horse is taken sick you will prescribe the same course of treatment and medicines you would do for yourselves in similar cases, and then send for your family physician who will do better than the quacks styled horse-doctors or veterinary-surgeons. Discharge any man who has no judgment and fidelity in the care and use of a horse. *Carriage tops.*—Use oil extracted from the entrails and cooking of fowls, and add a little ivory-black. It is better than neat's-foot or other oil, and an occasional application will keep your carriage-cover in perfect order. Soap off the oil after it has been applied a few hours. For the axles, use caster-oil in warm weather, and sperm-oil in cold weather, and wipe surplus from axles and nuts clean before and after using."

HINTS FOR THE SEASON.—*Weeds* in Pastures and Fence Corners should not on any account be suffered to go to seed. Let them be moved at once.

Stubble Land, especially after barley, is often full of weeds; a mowing machine may be used with advantage to cut them. Also, in pastures where thistles and other weeds are abundant, a mowing machine affords an easy method of checking or destroying them.

Milch Cows are apt to fall off rapidly in their milk this month, and that dairyman is fortunate, or, more correctly speaking, prudent and enterprising, who has a good supply of corn fodder. There is little profit in keeping cows, unless they have all they can eat and digest. The trouble with corn is that it is too bulky. The cows are capable of digesting more of it than their stomachs will hold. They need, if the grass is of poor quality, a little corn-meal in addition to the fodder.

Horses suffer greatly from flies this month, and should be provided with nets or light cotton covers. Washing them with water containing a little crude carbolic acid is a temporary relief.

Sheep frequently suffer greatly this month for want of water. If there is no water in their pasture lot, let them be put at night in a lot where there is water, or else be driven to water night and morning; allow them plenty of time to drink. If the weather is wet and the grass long and succulent, it is a good plan to mow a portion for them occasionally. The sheep will eat and thrive on the dried grass. Lambs, if not done already, should now be weaned. Let them have the best of pasture after weaning, and place the ewes on poor pasture until dry. Examine the bags for a few days, and, if necessary draw out the milk. When dry, and if early lambs are desired next spring, the ewes, should begin to have abundance of good food. Strong, healthy lambs can only be expected from ewes in good condition.

Swine.—Feed the pigs at night, but not in the morning. They are then hungry enough to search for their food, to run on the stubbles, to pick up wormy fruit in the orchard, and to eat weeds and grass. At night they have a feed of soaked corn, and go to sleep contentedly with a full stomach. They should have constant access to fresh water, and an external application will be gratefully received.

Renewing Old Pastures, by harrowing them and sowing timothy, can be done any time this month, or the beginning of the next.

Manure may be drawn out and spread on the pastures and meadows, or on grass or clover land intended for corn next spring. Many farmers are afraid that the hot sun will evaporate all the ammonia. It would do so if there was any free ammonia in the manure, but such is rarely the case. Spread the manure at once, and be careful to break up all the lumps.

Root Crops must be hoed and thinned out. Most people are inclined to leave the plants too thick. White turnips may be sown any time during the month, and even ruta-bagas sometimes afford a fair crop on good land, sown early this month.—*Agriculturist.*

LIVING ON SPIRITUAL FOOD.—A good anecdote is related of Dr. Rice, which enforces its own lesson. When he was at the head of the Theological Seminary in Prince Edward, one of the out parishes of Virginia sent to him for a minister. They, as usual in such cases, wanted a scholar, a gentleman, an orator, a pastor, a fine writer—in short, a perfect minister. They "had formerly given $350 per annum; but now, if they could get such a man as they wanted, they could raise it to $400." The doctor answered by telling them to send to heaven for Dr. Dwight. He was the only such man he knew; and as he had been living a good while on spiritual food, he might possible live on four hundred dollars!

AT a meeting of the Massachusetts Labor Reform Committee, at Boston, it was decided to postpone action in reference to nominating candidates for State officers until after the other State political conventions are held. Wendell Phillips declined to run for Governor.

Summary of News.

THE cattle disease has appeared in Ireland.

THE French Assembly has passed the Indemnification bill.

A CONTRACT has been made for tunneling the Sierra Nevada.

DUBLIN is quiet, the rioters having been fined and released.

REPORTS from all parts of Arkansas say the crop prospects were never better.

A TORNADO in Wisconsin caused immense damage, two persons being drowned.

THE Prince of Wales has been installed Grand Patron of the Freemasons of Ireland.

CLAGGETT, Republican, is elected Delegate to Congress from Montana by 1,000 majority.

OWING to the failure of the hay crop good cows sell for $10 each in Penobscot County, Maine.

THE number of clergymen in the United States is placed at 81,000; their average salary at $700.

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS has accepted the appointment of Arbitrator at Geneva on the Alabama claims.

THE Illinois Democratic State Central Committee have called a State Convention at Springfield Oct. 4.

MARSHAL MACMAHON reports the total casualties of the Versailles forces in the second siege of Paris at 7,514.

NEW YORK and the New England States together have almost one-third of the cities in the United States.

THE British House of Commons passed the Ballot bill, after an exciting debate between Disraeli and Gladstone.

THE French Post Office authorities are about arranging a money-order system with England and the United States.

COMMISSIONER PLEASANTON has been suspended by the President, Deputy Commissioner Douglass being appointed to succeed.

THE National Division of the Sons of Temperance have arranged for a Convention in Boston, on Sept. 6, to continue for five days.

ELECTION riots occurred in Paris, Lexington, and Frankfort, Ky., two white men and one negro being killed and many injured.

SEVEN dollars was received in Washington from a New Yorker who had not paid the full amount of his income tax for the past year.

IN the English House of Commons, Viscount Enfield denied that negotiations were pending with the United States for the abolition of privateering.

NEW lodges of Knights of Pythias are established in Massachusetts at the rate of about one per month. There are now fifty-three lodges in that State

THE female suffragists of San Francisco and Stockton are preparing to bring suits against the County Clerks for refusing to register them as voters.

A NUMBER of small boys, while hunting near Oreville, Cal., mistook a Mexican sheep-herder sleeping in the grass for a bear, and shot him. He died in a few hours.

A DREADFUL MURDER occurred at Erranoocy Eng., a woman having been ruthlessly killed by some ruffians, who also seriously wounded her father and two children.

THE rinderpest, which caused great ravages among the cattle in Austria for the last ten years, has recently made its appearance in the vicinity of Vienna and in that city itself.

IN the Dental Convention, at White Sulphur Springs, Dr. HARRIMAN, of Boston, read a paper on the formation of teeth, showing them to be fibrous. The views expressed caused some suprise and considerable comment.

CITIZENS of the United States, before going abroad, should obtain their passports from the Department of State. No fees are now charged for them. Naturalization papers must be presented with their application.

THE managers of the steam-boat and railroad lines of the North-west, have decided to make the tarift 25 cents per 100 pounds for grain, and 50 cents per barrel for Flour from all points on the Mississippi River to Milwaukee, Chicago and Duluth.

GENERAL Powell, of Ohio, has sued the little Miama Railroad for refusing to pass him on the 1st of August on a ticket entitling him to passage during the month of July. The question to be decided is one of importance to railroads and travellers.

THE fair of the New York State Agricultural Society is to be held in Albany on the 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th and 6th of October. Entries, except for fruits and flowers, must be made on or before Saturday, the 2d day of September. The premiums are open to all comers, residents of New York or non-residents, on equal terms.

Execution of a Chinese Murderer.

The murderer of the Viceroy Ma was executed a few weeks ago at Nankin by being "cut into 10,000 pieces," which means cut to pieces gradually until he died. He bore the punishment as stoically as he had supported the horrible tortures to which he had been subjected in the course of the judicial investigation. He first declared that he murdered the Viceroy because he believed him to be in treasonable communication with the Mohamedan rebels in Kansuh. Afterwards he told a tale very similar to that extracted from his mother-in-law. This was extracted from him by keeping him kneeling on hot chains; and though, according to *The Pekin Gazette*, this discipline was kept up afterward for 20 days, until he was too weak to eat, and apparently at the point of death, nothing else could be got out of him. "As it would never have done," says the official accounts, "to allow him to die from exhaustion, thus cheating justice of her rights, it was thought necessary to hurry on, so that he might live long enough to be suitably executed." What the suitable mode of execution was I have related. The value of a confession extracted by torture is not very great, and Chinese official statements are always untrustworthy. For what it is worth, however, I may say that the assassin declared his enmity against Ma to have been caused by his rejection of a petition for justice against a man who had carried off his wife and some money. He had got his wife back, but not the money; and when he appealed to Ma for help the latter refused to entertain his request. Some piratical friends, whom Ma had disturbed in their avocations, worked upon this irritation and impelled him to avenge their and his own wrongs at once.

A SQUIRREL HUNTER.—There is a young man in Contra Costa County, California, who may be regarded as the champion squirrel-killer of all creation. He is said to have killed no less than ten thousand in a single season. From this it may be inferred that the squirrel crop of the Golden State is one of the heaviest of the industrial resources of the Pacific slope. The young man in question gathers his crop not for the fun of the thing, nor because his family is habitually out of meat, but as a matter of business. He sells the skins of the squirrels for fifteen cents each to the agents of foreign kid-glove manufacturers, and the county pays him a bounty of ten cents a head for every squirrel killed.

A PROBLEM.—Any number of figures you may wish to multiply by 5 will give the same result if divided by 2—a much quicker operation; but you must remember to annex a cipher to the answer when there is no remainder, and when there is a remainder, what ever it may be, annex 5 to the answer. Multiply 464 by 5, and the answer will be 2,320; divide the same by 2, and you have 232, and as there is no remainder you add a cipher. Now take 359—multiply by 5, the answer is 1,795; on dividing this by 2 there is 179 and a remainder; you therefore place a 5 at the end of the line, and the result is again, 1,795.

EASTWARD HO.—There is a little two-line paragraph in the South Bend (Ind.) *Register* of last week, which reads: "A great many emigrant wagons are pointed eastward. All do not find things lovely in the West."

Was Shylock a Jew?

There are people who believe that Shakspeare made Shylock a Jew in order to pander to the popular hostility existing at that day to the Israelites. But, was Shylock—the Shylock of history, a Jew or a Christian? A correspondent, (M. E. G.,) who takes an interest in the query, writes as follows: "The affair took place at Rome in the time of Pope Sextus the Fifth—I have copied the same verbatim from a work entitled—'History of Pope Sextus V.,' page 401:—

It was currently reported in Rome, that Drake had taken and plundered St. Domingo, in Hispaniola, and carried off an immense booty. This account came in a private letter to Paul Sechi, a very considerable merchant in the city, who had large concerns in those parts which he insured upon receiving this news. He sent for the insurer, Sampson Ceneda, a Jew, whose interest it was to have such a report thought false, gave many reasons why it could not possibly be true, and at last worked himself into such a passion that he said, "I'll lay a pound of my flesh it is a lie." Such wagers, it is well known, are often proposed, by people of strong passions, to convince others that are incredulous or obstinate. Nothing is more common than to say, "I'll lay my life on it." "I'll forfeit my right hand if it is not true."

Sechi, who was of a fiery, hot temper, replied, "If you like it I'll lay you one thousand crowns against a pound of your flesh, it is true." The Jew accepted the wager, and articles were immediately executed between them, the substance of which was that if Sechi won he should himself cut the flesh with a sharp knife, from whatever part of the Jew's body he pleased. Unfortunately for the Jew the truth of the account was very soon after confirmed by other advices from the West Indies, which threw him almost into distraction, especially when he was informed that Sechi had solemnly sworn he would compel him to the exact literal performance of the contract, and was determined to cut a pound of flesh from the Jew's body. Upon this he went to the Governor of Rome, and begged he would interpose in the affair and use his authority to prevail on Sechi to accept one thousand pistoles as an equivalent for the pound of flesh; but the Governor, not daring to determine a case of so uncommon a nature, made a report to the Pope, who sent for them both, and having heard the articles read and informed himself of the whole affair from their own mouths, said: "When contracts are made it is just they should be fulfilled, as we intend this shall. Take a knife, Sechi, and cut a pound of flesh from any part you please of the Jew's body. We would advise you, however, to be very careful, for if you cut a scruple, or a grain, more or less than your due, you shall certainly be hanged. Go and bring hither a knife and a pair of scales, and let it be done in our presence." The merchant at these words began to tremble like an aspen leaf, and throwing himself at the feet of his Holiness, with tears in his eyes protested it was far from his thoughts to insist upon the performance of the contract, and being asked by the Pope what he demanded, said, "Nothing, Holy Father, but your benediction, and the articles may be torn to pieces;" then turning to the Jew, asked him what he had to say, and whether he was content. The Jew answered he thought himself extremely happy to come off at so easy a rate, and that he was perfectly content. "But we are not content," replied Sextus, "nor is there sufficient satisfaction made to our laws; we desire to know what authority you have to lay such wagers. The subjects of princes are the property of the state, and they have no right to dispose of their bodies or any part of them, without express consent of their sovereigns." They were both sent to prison, and the Governor ordered to proceed against them with the utmost severity of the law.

Satanta's Plea for Life.

On the occasion of the sentence of the two convicted Indian chiefs for murder at Jacksboro, Texas, a few days ago, Satanta, one of the prisoners, in reply to the charge of murder and sentence of death, spoke through an interpreter as follows:

Why should I lie, since I have been under the white man's control ever since I was a young man? I started off with a party of my people for Texas, and stopped with a sick man on Peos River. I have been abused by my people for being too friendly with the white man. I have always been an advocate for peace. I have always wished this to be a white man's country. I am wearing shackels because of the Kiowas and General Sherman. I am to suffer for what others did. This is the first time I have ever been so near to Texas. They know me not, neither do I know him. If you let me live, I feel my ability to control my people. If I die, it will be like a match put to the dry prairies—no power can stop it. If I could see General Grierson or my people I pledge myself for the Kiowas that if I get out of this I will make peace. What mischief has been done has been done by the Ionorie Kiowas. It is the first mischief I have ever been in. I have a better knowledge of the Texan than I have ever had. If I ever get out your people can go on with their farming and stock raising—all will go well. When General Custer and General Sherman had me arrested the indignity of shackles was never put upon me. I have now seen these Texas people in this house for the last few days—woman and children—and I said in my heart I am willing to make peace. Take off these shackles. I cannot treat now. I am as a woman. I expect to hear of mischief done by my people, and I know they are only waiting to hear of my death to take the warpath. Big Bow, Lone Wolf, Lost Bear, Eagle Heart, and Parah have been depredating on Texas, and I feel more enmity against them than I do the Texans. I will kill them with my own hands if I am permitted to go to my tribe again.

After making the foregoing remarks, and being informed, through the interpreter, that the decree of the Court stood unaltered, and being informed that they would be hung on the first Friday of September next, they both arose and expressed a wish to be executed immediately; that they were tired of confinement and were not afraid to die.

Preferred Death.

A Paris correspondent tells this story: At this point I may describe a scene that occurred during the last days of the Commune, and which was related to me by a friend of the Versailles officer who took part in the affair. A band of thirty-six Communists had taken refuge in Pere la Chaise, and had resisted the attacks of a battalion of Versailles troops until their ammunition was exhausted. The Communists had fought behind tombstones, monuments and trees, with great desperation, when, finding all the ammunition gone, they grasped themselves together and laid down their arms. Said the Versailles commander: "Will you surrender?" "No! Vive la Commune!" "But you must surrender or I shall have to kill you." "No! Vive la Commune!" Mitrailleuses were sent for, and a last demand made upon the Communists to surrender. "No! Vive la Commune!" said they, with more determination than ever. A horrid rattle from the mitrailleuses, a cloud of smoke, and thirty-four Communists were slaughtered. Said the Versailles commander, "Through a cloud of smoke I saw only two heads, more erect and more defiant than ever." "Will you surrender?" "No! Vive la Commune!" "I hadn't the heart to kill those men; I took them prisoners."

A HAPPY COUPLE.—A few days ago a young gentleman and lady from the rural districts visited Somerset, Pa., to get married. The young couple entered the town on this festive occasion astride of one horse. They dismounted, had their horse fed, partook of a sumptuous repast consisting of crackers, were then united in the holy bonds of matrimony by a justice of the peace, when they again mounted their steed and wended their way to their mountain home amid the cheers of the populace.

THE directors of the Lower California Company has proposed to President Thiers to receive all the communists prisoners as colonists, and Theirs has promised to lay the offer before the Assembly.

The Buffenburgh Case.

The Buffenburgh poisoning case, as it is already called, naturally excites great interest in Cincinnati, where all the parties concerned are well known. The fact that Mrs. Colburn, the wife of the late Mr. Peter Buffenburgh, is now openly accused of having caused his death by administering arsenic, in order to gain undisputed possession of a portion of his large estate, leads many unthinking people to believe that the lady is really guilty. The more intelligent portion of the community, however, consider it only right to give the accused the benefit of all doubts until some specific evidence is presented against her. All sorts of rumors have been afloat concerning the developments in the case but as yet there is no ground for any of them.

It may be remembered that some time prior to Mr. Buffenburgh's death, he gave his wife a large farm for her personal property, and his death placed her in possession of one-third of his personal property, valued at over $700,000. The other two-thirds also came under her control as guardian for her two children. This furnishes the ground for the accusation on the part of the other relatives of Mr. Buffenburgh, as they insist that the possession of the estate was the motive for the terrible crime of which Mrs. Colburn stands accused. The poison said to have been used is arsenic, and the whole case turns upon that, for if none of that mineral poison is traced in the organs already submitted to analysis by the chemists, the accusation must fall to the ground, unless, indeed, that Prof. Wormley is prepared to say that there are other indications of poisoning.

A year after the death of Peter Buffenburgh, which event occurred in September, 1867, his wife married Mr. R. T. Colburn, a journalist favorably known in New York. Mrs. Colburn was a Miss Hudson when Peter Buffenburgh abandoned his bachelordom and entered the marriage state, at an age when most men are thinking of leaving this world altogether, and their union appeared quite happy. The very fact that Peter Buffenburgh died intestate, and especially in view of the fact that he knew himself to be dying, and never spoke of a last dying will and testament, argues strongly that his confidence in his wife was unshaken. The case has its mysterious aspects like all similar cases, for there is an under-current of suspicion that some illegal means have been resorted to obtain or manufacture evidence against Mrs. Colburn.

Dr. Collins was Mr. Buffenburgh's family physician for about three years previous to his decease, and states that in his opinion the disease of which Mr. Buffenburgh died was consumption. The symptoms observed by him were such as were manifestly produced by the disease. During the latter part of his illness the patient expectorated very freely. That continued until about twenty-four hours previous to his death. If arsenic had been given to him it would have produced symptoms which the physician would have discovered. He informed Mrs. Colburn weeks before his death that her husband must necessarily soon die. Dr. Collins also says that Mr. Buffenburgh, always manifested the utmost confidence in his wife. She was very devoted and faithful in her attentions upon him.

Fishways in Streams.

The great want in our streams and rivers is fishways, or means whereby fish in search of their spawning-beds may ascend from the bed of the stream below a dam to the bed of the stream above. As the manufacturing interests of the country have compelled the utilization of water-power in its fullest extent, nearly every stream suited for the purpose is dammed to produce it and the fish that are spawned above, when once they go below have no means of returning when they may be matured, unless fishways are built for them. The energy with which the commissioners are prosecuting the erection of these is a good omen for the future plentiful supply of fish. Fishways are not very expensive, except over high dams upon large streams. They are made of plank, and usually start from one end of the dam. A small gap, say four to twelve feet wide, and from one to two feet deep, according to the size of the stream is made in the dam, so that the waste water that otherwise would flow over it shall pass through this gap and enter the fishway, which is a trough or chute descending about one foot in ten. In this trough are bars extending about half way across, and slightly inclined up stream, to afford resting-places for the fish as they go up the fishway. It is important that the foot of the fishway be in a deep basin. If the only basin below the dam is too near it to be reached by a fishway, one may be made to run down part of the distance, and then be turned so as to reach the basin, similar to the turn often made with a flight of stairs.

A Turkish Breakfast.

A Turkish breakfast comprises about thirty dishes. Soon after the first dish comes lamb, roasted on the spit, which must never be wanting at any Turkish banquet. Then follow dishes of solid and liquid, sour and sweet, in the order of which a certain kind of recurring change is observed, to keep the appetite alive. The pilau of boiled rice is always the concluding dish. The externals to such a feast as this are these:—A great round plate of metal, with a plain edge, of three feet in diameter is placed on a low frame, and serves as a table, about which five or six people can repose on rugs. The left hand must remain invisible; it would be improper to expose it while eating. The right hand is alone permitted to be active. There are no plates, or knives or forks. The table is decked with dishes, deep and shallow, covered and uncovered; these are continually being changed, so that little can be eaten from each. Some remain longer—as roast meat, cold milks, and gherkins, are often recurred to. Before you an attendant or slave kneels, with a metal basin in one hand, and a piece of soap on a little saucer in the other. Water is poured by him over the hands of the washer from a metal jug; over his arm hangs an elegantly embroidered napkin for drying the hands upon.

Autumn Fashions.

Already autumn styles have been decided on, and ladies who wish to prepare their fall suits beforehand can begin at once. Neutral tints and the dark cloth colors scarcely removed from black will prevail. Black will be more worn than ever, and suits of black alpacca, mohair, and cashmere will be made with blouse waists, lined with soft muslin, with three dark broad, double, box plaits in the front and back. These are so easily made that ladies who have a good-fitting blouse pattern will not need a dress-maker's assistance. The simple overskirt is long and caught up by tapes falling from the belt with a buttonhole in the end to fasten them to a button half way down the skirt. The waist and overskirt of the same or with silk skirts. Black silk suits will be trimmed with fringe and passementario.

ICE CREAM.—A plate of ice-cream taken leisurely, while seated at a table in pleasurable conversation, is a far safer quencher of thirst than a glass of ice-water, or any other ice-cold liquid; the ice-cream is, in addition, stimulating and nutritious, thus strengthening, invigorating and cooling at the same time. Ice-cream should not be taken immediately after a full meal, unless in the slowest manner possible—a plateful in the course of fifteen minutes, during lively conversation. If eaten rapidly it cools the stomach, prevents digestion, and causes acidity, unseemly belchings, if not actual chill, which in feeble persons endangers life.

DANGER.—Among the facts already elicited in the inquiries as to the cause of the explosion on board the New York ferryboat *Westfield* are these: Incompetent persons were placed in charge of the machinery; the boiler was at best a dangerous one, and the engineer was asleep at the time of the explosion. These are not pleasant things for people to reflect upon who have to make daily journeys upon steamers. It is not wonderful that this explosion occurred, but it is very wonderful that a similar disaster does not happen once or twice a week.

Sheep-Farming in California.

The great sheep-runs of California, like those of Australia (says a correspondent), seem to be a kind of mild form of Botany Bay for their respective mother countries. Old shepherds of long experience in either country will tell you of scores of men with college and even university education, whom themselves or their friends have banished "for their country's good," and who are now gathering their melancholy crops of wild oats at the same time they watch the flocks on the hills nibble theirs. Rufus A. Lockwood, one of the greatest and most erratic geniuses ever seen in California, and whose biography has been written by Hon. Newton Booth, Republican candidate for Governor, once herded sheep in Australia, and that, too, after he had become known as one of the most brilliant lawyers of San Francisco. Mr. Carr's overseer told me that, during a single year, he had employed a bishop's son, an editor, a banker, a civil engineer, a priest, and a bookkeeper as shepherds. Every Summer day there are several hot hours when the restless sheep are compelled, for once, to be still, when the shepherd lolls at his ease beneath a tree; and you shall not unfrequently see him reading some magazine, or, like Alexander the Great, who always carried around a piece of good literature with him, perusing poems of his own composition clipped from the village paper.

The shepherds of California, as a class, are probably the most worthless, morally and socially, the most unprincipled, reckless and collapsed company of vagabonds to be found in any civilized country, unless it be Australia. They are the riffraff of the world; vagrant miners, who gamble away their month's wages as soon as they draw the same; runaway sailors from ships in San Francisco, who sell their blankets for a pillow-case full of biscuits, and then get never a pinch of grub for two days; measly, old, groggy soldiers, who fall asleep under a live-oak, and let the coyotes pull away a lamp. The good old word "shepherd" is not heard in California; it is either "wool-grower," "ranchero," or that most cumbrous and absurd "sheep-raiser;" and for the man who does the work, he is a "sheep-herder." And when a man gets so low down as to be a "sheep-herder" in California, he would better go and dig a hole in the ground, insert his head therein, and ask some pitying friend to cover it up. He is lower than a Greaser, for this is the Greaser's natural business that he was born to, and he is therefore respectable.

A Relic of the Siege of Paris.

The readers of the literature of the first siege of Paris, writes a correspondent, will doubtless remember the celebrated Sergeant Hoff, whose days and hours in the first month of the siege were spent in gloomy and silent thoughts of revenge for the loss of parents and relatives, whom he averred had been murdered by the enemy. He was the hero of every man's tongue. Daily tales came into Paris of Sergeant Hoff's exploits, and the number of Prussian helmets he brought back from solitary and silent incursions made on the enemy's posts. Each night the question on the boulevards was: "What news of Sergeant Hoff?" One day, however, the Sergeant disappeared to return no more, and for a moment besieged Paris became disconsolate; but only for a moment. The fate of all those who temporarily disappear from their circle followed the mysterious Sergeant. Backbiters began to hint that there was easy explanation of the Prussian helmets he used to bring in from his raids, and that, instead of being an avenging foe, he was simply a spy to M. Bismarck. Then, indeed, the tide rolled against the absent man's reputation, and all Paris spurned the idol of yesterday. From that time to the present Sergeant Hoff had been unheard of. No sign was made to any one of his life. But this week he has again appeared in Parisian circles, giving the practical lie to his enemies by his return from captivity, but still moody and stolid and uncommunicative as of old, thus adding one other illustrious confutation to the numberless fables of spys and spydom.

A Useful Table.

To aid farmers or others in arriving at accuracy in estimating the amount of land in different fields under cultivation, the following table is given:

Five yards wide by 968⅓ yards long contains one acre.

Ten yards wide by 484 yards long contains one acre.

Twenty yards wide by 242 yards long contains one acre.

Forty yards wide by 121 yards long contains one acre.

Seventy yards wide by 69 1-7 yards long contains one acre.

Eighty yards wide by 60¼ yards long contains one acre.

Sixty feet wide by 726 feet long contains one acre.

One hundred and ten feet wide by 396 feet long contains one acre.

One hundred and twenty feet wide by 363 feet long contains one acre.

Two hundred and twenty feet wide by 198 feet long contains one acre.

Two hundred and forty feet wide by 181½ feet long contains one acre.

Four hundred and forty feet wide by 99 feet long contains one acre.

U. S. NAVY.—The *Navy Register* to July 1, 1871, just issued, shows that there are 12 first class vessels, carrying from 21 to 45 guns; 15 second class vessels, carrying from 15 to 23 guns; 12 third class, carrying from 8 to 12 guns; 11 fourth class, carrying from 5 to 7 guns, and 19 fifth-rate vessels, carrying from 1 to 10 guns or howitzers. The total number of vessels is 179, of which 51 are iron-clad, laid up at League Island, New Orleans, Washington and other places, the Terror, of the North Atlantic fleet, being the only one in active service; 30 are tugs, doing duty at the various navy yards and stations; 32 vessels are abroad on the several foreign stations, and a large number are laid up at the navy yards throughout the country, being of no use as the law does not permit the enlistment of a sufficient number of men to send them to sea.

INGENIOUS.—The ant-eating woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*), a common Californian species, has a curious and peculiar method of laying up provisions against the inclement season. Small round holes are dug in the bark of the pine and oak, into each one of which is inserted an acorn, and so tightly is it fitted or driven in that it is with difficulty extracted. The bark of the pine trees, when thus filled, presents at a short distance the appearance of being studded with brass-headed nails. Stowed away in large quantities in this manner, the acorns not only supply the wants of the woodpecker, but the squirrels, mice and jays avail themselves likewise of the fruits of provident labor.

NOT SO LONELY.—Some queer scenes ensue in Wyoming, where the women vote, serve on juries, &c., like their lords and masters. Recently six married ladies and as many gentlemen were impanelled upon a murder case there, and it became necessary to lock them up all night. Three of the husbands stormed and raved at the Judge and half a dozen children made the Court House ring with their cries; but the Judge was inexorable, and put them under lock and key.

WOULD LOSE IT.—Colonel ——, reflecting on his ill life and character, told a certain nobleman, "That if such a thing as a good name was to be purchased, he would freely give ten thousand pounds for one." The nobleman said, "It would certainly be the worst money you ever laid out in your life." "Why so?" said the honest colonel. "Because," answered the peer, "you would forfeit it again in less than a week."

WATER VS. LAND.—Mr. Seth Green, who is well informed on this subject, says: "Expend the one-thousandth part of the sum spent in tilling the land in tilling the waters, and fish may be sold in our markets at two cents a pound; and I do not hesitate to aver that at the present time an acre of water can be made to pay more than an acre of land."

Narrow Gauge Railways.

As the question of narrow gauge in preference on the score of economy to wide gauge railways has become a subject of interest, we take the following from the Cincinnati *Gazette*:

The first element of economy in favor of narrow gauge railways is the cost of earthwork. From actual surveys reported by the Massachusetts committee, the comparative amounts here stated give the average per mile for a certain road twenty-five miles in length.

	Three foot gauge.	Four feet 8 inch gauge.
Excavation	$5,600	$11,700
Embankment	6,000	8,600
Rock cutting	1,600	2,100

If we estimate the cost of earthwork proper at 20 cents per cubic yard, and rock cutting at 80 cents per yard, the cost of the narrow gauge will be $3,600 per mile, and of the common gauge, $5,740 per mile giving a difference in favor of the former of $2,140 per mile.

It is safe to estimate in all cases that the cost of earth will be one-third less on the narrow lines than on the common gauge, even if the same alignment be adopted.

There is, however, another very important part of this same element of economy, to wit, the practicability of using curves of much smaller radius.

On our present lines curves of 717 feet radius are regarded as the sharpest admissible; while on the narrow gauge it is established that this may be further diminished with safety to 260 feet radius.

The advantage from this change of alignment will give another important saving of earthwork, making a reliable reduction of at least one-half in the total cost of earthwork.

The second element of economy in favor of narrow gauge is the cost of superstructure.

The cost of the standard gauge per mile, with rails weighing sixty pounds per yard, will be nearly as follows:

Ninety-five tons rail at $70	$6,650
Four hundred fish joints at $1	400
Five thousand lbs. spike at 5c	250
Two thousand six hundred and forty ties at 40c	1,056
Ballast	500
Laying track	300
	$10,156

The cost per mile for a three foot gauge, with rails weighing thirty-five pounds per yard, will be:

55 tons rail at $70	$3,820
400 joints at 60c	240
3,000 lbs. spike at 5c	150
2,640 ties at 20c	528
Ballast	300
Laying track	200
Total	$5,268

The difference in favor of the narrow gauge is $4,888 per mile, or nearly one-half.

The third element of economy in favor of the narrow gauge is the cost of rolling stock compared with carrying capacity.

For the standard gauge, box cars weigh empty, 10 tons; box car capacity, 10 tons—or, for every pound of paying freight one additional pound of dead weight must be carried. If to this we add the cost of returning empty cars, which enters more or less into the expenses of transportation, it is safe to estimate a loss of two-thirds of actual transportation for dead weight.

For the narrow gauge, box cars weigh 2½ to 3 tons, carrying capacity 5 to 6 tons, or for two pounds of paying freight there is to be calculated one of dead weight.

The cost of returning empty cars will be much less than for same of standard gauge, thus giving a difference still larger—in favor of the narrow roads.

Two other elements of economy—yet in dispute among engineers—the relative useful power developed in the small engines of ten to fifteen tons, compared with standard engines weighing twenty-five to forty tons—and the probable duration of the superstructure from diminished percussion will be discussed hereafter.

The total cost, estimated from the best data, of operating standard gauge railroads is seventy per cent of the gross receipts, while on narrow gauge roads this cost will not exceed fifty per cent. Many of our present roads are unprofitable investments, and very many of the newly projected lines must be equally unprofitable if constructed upon the standard gauge, while those same lines, if constructed on the narrow gauge, would yield very satisfactory returns.

The statements here made are deemed reliable, being made chiefly from actual experience, and are certainly worthy the careful attention of parties desiring to construct new roads or remodel old ones.

The Fate of a Murderer.

Messner, who suffered the death penalty at Rochester, N. Y., has been thrice sentenced and reprieved during the last three years. The crime for which he died was committed more than three years ago. His case afforded a curious illustration of the law's delays. On April 13, 1868, his wife was murdered. Before the close of the spring he was tried, found guilty, and sentenced to be hung on June 4, 1869. On June 3 he was respited. Before the respite expired a writ of error and stay of proceedings were granted by Judge Darwin Smith. It was set aside by the Supreme Court, but a second writ having been granted the execution was again deferred to December 10, 1869. On this day he was actually dressed for execution, and tickets were sold for the exhibition of his throes. In this connection the horrible rumor must be noticed that a gang of gamblers made his life and the delay of his execution the subject of bets. In fact it is said that one gang was trying to hasten and the other to defer the execution—bulling and bearing the man's life. This time he confessed that he was prepared to die. A stay of proceedings was granted, and his case came before the Court of Appeals in the following month, January, 1870. The Court of Appeals granted a new trial, at which, by new act, Messner was allowed to testify in his own favor. This trial took place last June, another verdict of guilty was recorded, and under it Judge Dwight sentenced Messner to be hung.

His crime was that of slaying his wife. The evidence on which he was convicted was circumstantial. He and his wife lived a cat-and-dog life. A few days before her death she called on the neighbors to interfere in her favor. The day she was killed there was no one at the time of her murder near their miserable shanty on the Penfield Flats. After the deed was done, and while she lay dead in their cabin he met one of the neighbors, Giles Van Aiken, who passed while he was fastening up his horse to go for the doctor. To Van Aiken he said that his wife had bad luck; that she fell from the wheel of the cart against a stick, and was badly hurt. The diameter of the wheel was but three feet six inches. From the evidences of a struggle and the character of the wound and the appearance of the stick, Messner's story was disbelieved, and the knowledge of their quarrelsome relations provoked the universal opinion that he killed her. This he afterwards admitted, but claimed that it was done in a quarrel and in self-defense.

EXPENSIVE.—Keeping a yacht is a rather expensive pleasure, to say nothing of its original cost. A general estimate has been made, showing that the annual expenses amount to about $4,000 for a schooner, and $2,500 for a sloop. Of course the cost of maintaining a yacht varies according to the size of the vessel, and the management of the owner. The yachting season lasts only four months; and frequently the dry-rot attacks the timbers after the first year, so that the pleasure vessels depreciate in value every year. During the season table expenses are heavy, sometimes amounting to $500 a week. A schooner yacht carries a crew of not less than eight men, whose combined wages are not far from $360 a month. For a sloop carrying a smaller crew the pay-roll amounts to about $200. In addition the provisions of the crew will cost from $75 to $150 a month. Repairs and alterations must be taken into account, as well as the expense of taking care of the yacht during the winter months.

The kangaroo is indeed a curious beast. He is generally most wide awake when he's leaping.

The Corea Question.

At the time of the departure of the American fleet for Corea, but before the result was known, the Shanghai correspondent of *The London Times* wrote the following account of the projected expedition:

One of the few remaining countries in the world about which we know almost nothing, and which has all the interest that usually pertains to the unknown, is Corea. We know that it has been conquered by Chinese and Japanese, and that, though now independent, it still acknowledges fealty to Pekin in so far that its monarch always receives investiture at the hands of the "Emperor of the World;" but regarding the