

GOING TO SLEEP.

The light is fading down the sky,
The shadow grows and multiplies,
I hear the thrush's evening song;

These pillows are my faithful friends,
So, darling, kiss my eyelids down,
Oh, blessed sleep! Oh, perfect rest!

Ludwig Devrient.

The next great light on the German stage was Ludwig Devrient, the uncle of the three Devrients, Carl, Franz, and Edward.

It is said that one night, when he became ill, he was attended by his wife, who was announced to play in five minutes before the rising of the curtain.

The case was given: Devrient threw himself into the part. He entered: the house cheered. He looked the part to perfection, and never acted better.

On another occasion, after the performance of a play, he was sitting in an inn where Devrient and his friends used to congregate, when a young man fresh from the provinces, who was in a state of ecstasy, burst into the room.

We have learned to consider white as essentially bridal color, but it has not been always so; and even now the Bohemian bride wears a rose-colored veil on her marriage day, and in the modern Greek islands the bride wears a red silk—a custom which has descended, no doubt, from the "flamen," or red bridal veil of ancient Greece.

Our marriage ceremonies are remarkable for their antiquity, and have varied but little. The wedding ring, which the Puritans repudiated as a satanic ban, has been worn from time to time on the right or left hand, the reason for its present assignment to the latter being a tradition, whether authentic or not, that some vein in the third finger of the left hand has a special connection with the heart.

Our bridal veil is of modern introduction, though it is said to have replaced the Anglo-Saxon custom of the bride veiling her hair floating on her shoulders. For many years nothing but the wreath was worn over the hair, and the colors were said to be of Danish origin, and at one time these were made not of white, but in the bride's own colors, whatever they might be.

Nobody ever gained anything by meanness, and yet meanness is quite often manifested by men from whom observers take notice and shun every one who practices it. How often have we observed meanness in the faces of those in temporary power over those who, for the time being, happen to be in an inferior position, and how often have we observed those inferior rising into the high places of society, and becoming dispensers of favors to those who have arbitrarily injured them when they were in power.

There are about 250,000 species of animals in all. The number of varieties of reptiles will probably reach 20,000. The number of varieties of fishes will probably reach 10,000.

AGRICULTURAL.

How Deep to Plant.—W. J. Beal, Professor of Botany and Horticulture in the Agricultural College, Lansing, Michigan, has published the results of his experiments on the depth of planting corn and peas at different depths, varying from one inch to one foot.

The Chromis Paterfamilias.—Up to the present time naturalists have recognized very few fishes which incubate their eggs in the mouth or in the gills. Agassiz, during his voyage up the Amazon river, discovered one species of the latter kind, a Chromis, a Chinese fish of very singular characteristics, has been remarked to have the same peculiarity.

CHIPS AND SHAVINGS FOR APPLE TREES.—One of your correspondents writes from the city of New York, that he has been much benefited by the course shavings from a shovel handle used in the orchard.

WOMEN AS POULTRY RAISERS.—The special capacity of women for caring for pets is so well established that it is not surprising that a larger number do not make their natural inclination a matter of profit in the raising of poultry.

Textile Conductors of Electricity.—It is shown by experiments made by M. DuMoucel, as communicated to the French Academy of Sciences, that the opinions prevail in regard to the conducting powers of the materials ordinarily used for apparel.

Black silks are "loaded" much more than the colored, and the electric current appears to depend on the amount of sizing. The amount of dressing is indicated by the movement of the galvanometer.

INTERESTING FACTS.—The number of seeds in one pound of oats, 20,000. The number of seeds in one pound of rye, 23,000. The number of seeds in one pound of buckwheat, 25,000.

FACTS FOR FARMERS.—A series of experiments, instituted to test the average loss by selling unshelled corn in the husk, has shown that the loss is one-fourth, by the process.

Artificial Vanillin.—The details of the process for the manufacture of vanillin, are given as follows in the Deutsche Industrie Zeitung: Dissolve 10 parts of coniferin in hot water.

AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.—Blue grass sown on soil adapted to it soon expels weeds and is more productive than any other sown in September or October.

SCIENTIFIC.

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DOMESTIC.

FANCY MATS FOR FLOORS.—Take a piece of canvas, of size desired, such as a 10x12, and cut a quantity of black and colored cloth in circles of various sizes, making sufficient, when one is laid upon another, to cover the entire mat.

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EUROPEAN.

HE WANTED MORE POCKET.—"Ma," said a Chicago boy, the other day, "I wish you'd give me more pockets bigger."

THE BOYS OF DETROIT seem to be going down hill in their morals of late. Sunday one of the legion, who has always been noted for its respectability, toward the great public, observed an old citizen yawning and gapping on a street corner, and said to him: "Better not open your mouth so wide."

ALL ABOUT BIRDS.—Feathers.—A regular hawk room.—The nursery.—How she can get a "duck of a bonnet" cheap.—By going out in a heavy shower.

THE RING PASSION.—Prison chaplain (charged to report on convict's religious knowledge).—"Do you know the commandments?" Prisoner—"Yes, sir." Prison chaplain—"What's the first?" Prisoner—"Thou shalt do no manner of work; thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, etc."

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THE TRAVELS OF PLANTS.

Alexander brought rice from Persia to the Mediterranean, the Arabs carried it to Egypt, the Moors to Spain, the Spaniards to America. Lucullus brought the cherry-tree (which takes its name from Lucullus, the city of Pontus, where he found it), to Rome, as a trophy of his Mithridatic campaign; and 120 years later, or in A. D. 46, as Pliny says, it was introduced into England.

THE SUGAR CANE, which, with its sweet product, was known to the Greeks and Romans, only as a curiosity, and was not cultivated in India and China from the earliest times. Its introduction into Europe was due to the results of the Crusades, and thence it was planted to Madeira, and early in the sixteenth century from that island to the West Indies.

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