

Minuteman

B. F. SCHWEIER,

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IN THE NEXT.

Gather them close to your loving breast—
Cradle them to your breast;
They will soon enough leave your brooding care,
Soon enough mount youth's topmost stair—
Little ones in the nest.

Not that the children's hearts are gay,
That their restless feet will run;
There may come a time in the by and by
When you'll sit in your lonely room and sigh
For a sound of childish fun:

When you'll long for a repetition sweet,
That sounded through each room,
Or "Mother!" or "Mother!" the dear love calls,
That will echo long in the silent halls,
And add to their stately gloom.

There may come a time when you'll long to hear
The eager, soft, sweet tones,
The tuneless whistle, the clear, shrill shout,
The busy bustle in and out,
And patter overhead.

When the boys and girls are grown up
And scattered far and wide,
Or gone to the undiscovered shore
Whence youth and age come never more,
You will miss them from your side.

Then gather them close to your loving breast,
Cradle them to your breast,
They will soon enough leave your brooding care,
Soon enough mount youth's topmost stair—
Little ones in the nest.

THE TABLES TURNED.

It was just such an American village as you see in pictures. A background of superb old mountains clothed in blue-green cedars, with a torrent falling down a deep gorge and falling in foamy billows; and a knot of houses with a church-spire, at one end and a thicket at the other, whose black smoke wrote ever-changing hieroglyphics against the brilliancy of the sky.

This was Dapplevale, and in the rosy sunshine of a June day the girls were all assuaging forth, while General May, the foreman, sat at his desk, a pen behind his ear, and his small, beady eyes drawn back of it were in the shelter of a precipice of slaty eyebrows.

One by one the girls stopped and received their pay for one week's work, for this was Saturday. One by one they filed out with discontented faces until the last one paused in front of the desk.

She was slight and tall, with large velvety blue eyes and a complexion as delicately grained and transparent as rose-colored wax, and an abundance of glossy hair of so dark a brown that a casual observer would have pronounced it black, and there was something in the way the blue ribbon at her neck was tied and the manner in which the simple details of her dress were arranged that bespoke her foreign birth.

"Well, Mademoiselle Marie, how do you like factory life?" asked the foreman.

"It is not disagreeable," she answered, a slight accent clinging to her tones like fragrance to a flower, as she extended her hand for the money counted out to her.

"You have given me but four dollars, and it was eight by the contract," she said.

The foreman shrugged his shoulders with an insolent air.

"Humph! you ain't much accustomed to our way of doing things, are you, mademoiselle? Eight, of course, but we deduct two for a fee."

"A fee! For what?" demanded Marie with flashing eyes.

"For getting you the situation, to be sure. Such places don't grow on every bush, and you naturally expect to pay for the privilege."

"I did not."

"Oh, well, all right. You ain't obliged to stay unless you choose."

"Do you mean that if I do not pay this money?" hesitated Marie.

"You can't expect to stay in the works," said May, hitching up his collar.

"But the other two dollars?"

"Oh, that is a percentage the girls all pay," said the foreman.

"But what is it for?"

May laughed.

"It helps out my salary. Of course you know the girls expect to pay something each week for keeping their situations in a place where there are so many anxious to get in."

"And Mr. Elder?"

"Oh, he hasn't much to do with it. I am master, if you please."

"Mr. Elder owns the works?"

"Well, yes, he owns it, but I manage everything. Mr. Elder opposes the utmost confidence in my ability, and he is a good business man. He understands his own interest. And now if you have any more questions to ask—"

"I have none; but I need this money myself. I work hard for it; I earn it rightfully. I cannot afford any more than the others among those poor laboring girls to pay to your greed."

"Eh?" ejaculated Mr. May, jumping from his seat as if stung.

"And I will not pay it," calmly continued Mademoiselle Marie.

"Very well; just as you like, mademoiselle, only if you will conform to the rules of the Dapplevale Works—"

"Are these the rules?" scornfully demanded the girl.

"Pray consider your name crossed off the books; you are no longer in my employ. Good evening, mademoiselle."

Mr. May slammed down the cover of his desk as if it were a patent guillotine, and poor Marie's neck were under it.

Two or three of the factory girls who had hovered around the place to hear the discussion, looked with awe-stricken faces at Marie as she came out with \$4 in her hand.

"You have lost your place, ma'am!"

"I have," whispered Jennie Bass, a pale, dark-eyed girl who sported a crippled mother and two little sisters out of her factory earnings.

"And he'll never take you on again; he is as vindictive as possible," said Mary Rice.

"It matters not. He is a rogue, and

Light and Near-Sightedness.

Professor Pickering, of Harvard Observatory, points out in *Nature* that the color of gas-light has nothing to do with its painful effect upon the eyes of students and others. To test this question he had a lamp-lamp constructed, consisting of a tube six inches in diameter by eight in length. One end was closed by a reflector, and the other by a piece of very light blue glass. The holes were made in the sides through which passed the glass chimney of an argand gas-burner. By experimenting with a shadow photometer, a position was found where the light received on a book was of the same intensity and very similar color to that from a window in the daytime at a distance of about six feet. A few minutes' reading, however, was sufficient to convince him that the new light was far more trying to the eyes than an ordinary gas-lamp would be, the ill effects being due to the intense heat at the end of the reflector. And this he thinks is the source of the whole trouble in the ordinary gas-burner. The heat radiated by the flame, the heated chimney and shade, and reflected from the printed page and all other white paper lying on the table, dries the eyes, the lids, the forehead and temples. Temporary relief may be found by bathing the face and eyes in water, but it is only temporary. The hot, dry air from the lamp is also harmful, and no doubt contributes its share of injury to the vision. These evils may both in part be remedied by placing a pane of glass so as to intercept the rays about the lamp before they strike on the book or the face. But it must be placed at such a distance from the lamp as not itself to become heated. The hotter the flame the whiter it is, and the more light is thrown off in proportion to the heat. Hence oculists are recommending such lights as the Students' and Moderator lamps, which burn with a small, hot and very brilliant flame, as compared with that furnished by the argand and fish-tail burners. Statistics, said Professor Pickering, shows how alarmingly prevalent near-sightedness has become of late among students. Hence anything which will tend in the future to prevent this widespread defect will be a boon to mankind. He had great hopes of the electric light in this respect. In it there was the maximum of light with the minimum of heat. The ever-varying intensity was an objection, but he thought we might look forward to the success of the light from the incandescent carbon strip, in the near future, as a remedy for "the most widespread evil that afflicts the human vision."

Beards and Barbers.

Barbers do not often figure in the literature of ancient Greece and Rome, and information respecting them at that time is not ample. Nevertheless, four hundred years ago they were incorporated among the guilds of London.

Originally they united the art of shaving with that of trimming the nails.

Some of them still practice blood-letting, though not in the interests of surgery. Their sign was formerly a basin, symbolical of their trade as barbers, with a pole bound spirally with red fillet, symbolizing the ribbon about the arm in bleeding. The pole with red and white stripes is still used. In 1545 Henry VIII incorporated the barbers and surgeons together, but forbade each to exercise the functions of the other. In his time the shops were the resort of idle persons, and a lute or guitar was almost always hanging on the wall for the use of wandering musicians and the pleasure of the company.

The early barbers in Paris were privileged, in addition to shaving, to cut hair, bleed, keep warm baths, and make wigs.

The surgeons were a distinct profession but they were arbitrarily joined with the barbers by Louis XIV, and so remained for many years. The early French members of the craft could also draw teeth and bind up broken heads, which as cities were not at that time well policed and orderly, they were often called upon to do.

In the period before shops became so common, patrons were shaved in their own houses, barbers carrying with them to the place where needed the simple tools then in use.

The razors now sold in Paris are so bad that no Parisian thinks of shaving himself, so that when there was a strike a few weeks since, among the barbers employed, the gay capital was seriously disturbed.

This strike had a singular cause. The price of shaving had been raised to twenty-five centimes (about 6 cents) which so displeased the working classes who thought it too high for *une barbe simple*, that they refused to drop the usual gratuities, or *pourboires*, for the employes into the box that always stood ready for their reception.

The employes could not stand this deprivation, and refused to work. The employers could not well yield, as they feared the imposition of a fine of two hundred francs from the Union, and the difficult had to be compromised on the best terms mutually obtainable.

Webster and Hayne.

When Daniel Webster finished his great speech in favor of the Union a Southern member approached him cordially, and said: "Mr. Webster, I think you had better die now, and rest your fame on that speech." Mr. Hayne was standing near and heard the remark, and said: "You ought not to die. A man who can make such a speech ought never to die."

Webster and Hayne met at the President's reception that same evening, and as they shook hands Mr. Webster asked pleasantly: "How are you to-night?" "None the better for you, sir," was the general's humorous reply.

Embroideries.

The history of bombarding towns affords an instance of something like actual deterioration in the usages of modern warfare. Regular or simple bombardment, that is, of a town indiscriminately and not merely of its fortresses, has now become the established practice. Yet, what did Vattel say in the middle of the last century? "At present we generally content ourselves with battering the ramparts and defenses of a place. To destroy a town with bombs and red-hot balls is an extremity to which we do not proceed without cogent reasons." What said Vauban still earlier? "The fire must be directed simply at the defenses and batteries of a place, and not against the houses." Then let us remember the English bombardment of Copenhagen in 1807, when the cathedral and some three hundred houses were destroyed; the German bombardment of Strasburg in 1870, when rifled mortars were used for the first time, and the famous library and picture gallery destroyed; and the German bombardment of Paris, about which strangely enough, even the military conscience of the Germans was struck; so that in the highest circles doubt about the propriety of such a proceeding at one time prevailed from a moral as well as from a military point of view. With respect again to sacred or public buildings, warfare tends to become increasingly destructive. It was the rule in Greek warfare to spare sacred buildings; and the Romans frequently spared sacred and other buildings, as Marcellus, for instance, at Syracuse. Yet when the French ravaged the Palatine in 1689 they not only set fire to the cathedrals but sacked the tombs of the ancient Emperors at Spiers, Frederick II destroyed the finest buildings at Dresden and Prague. In 1814 the English forces destroyed the Capitol at Washington, the President's house, and other public buildings; and in 1815 the Prussian General, Blucher, was with difficulty restrained from blowing up the bridge of Jena at Paris and the pillar of Austerlitz. There is always the excuse of reprisal or accident. Yet Vattel had said (in language which he repeated to the language of Polybius and Cicero): "We ought to spare those edifices which do honor to human society, and do not contribute to the enemy's strength, such as temples, tombs, public buildings, and all works of remarkable beauty."

Making Dresses at Home.

Woollen dresses are made with the deep Jersey, or the coat basque; the pointed bodice is reserved for more dressy toilets, and it is cut-lined with folds of trimming, which form a sash in the same, or a contrasting color; or in a different shade of the same color; or in colors which appear in figure of the fabric of which the dress is composed. Bodice bodies are very fashionably finished with two collars—one narrow and standing, the other flat and cut of square, as in the "Gilda" basque. The insertion of a square shirring, or fine knife plaiting in easement opening at the neck, is favored for princess dresses because it gives a dressy effect without much trouble, and is almost universally accepted, except by very stout figures. Shirred bodices are less employed than last year, partly because of the difficulty of making them stylishly and so as to produce a good effect. They are still seen occasionally, however, and look best in washing materials on slender young girls, who can belt them in with ribbons, and who are improved by the fullness and the additional breadth given to the shoulders. It is important to remember that basques and bodices of all kinds can hardly be cut too high upon the front of the arm. It is quite common to dress dresses made at home or by inferior dressmakers, the effect of which is spoiled by the bad shape of the arm-hole, just at the top, where the highest part of the sleeve touches the shoulder seam. It will form an almost abrupt point, simply because the sides are not well cut and rounded. The result is disastrous, not only ruining the outline of the arm, but creating a mass of wrinkles, leaving an ungraceful breadth at the back, and a fit of case as well as smoothness in the front of the front. The modern dress sleeve is shaped like the coat sleeve, and the dress like the coat, is narrowed by the sleeve extending over the top of the shoulder. Sleeves should be adapted to their purpose; fancy "elbow," and half-long sleeves are absurd for the useful, every-day dresses of young Amazons, whose muscular development cannot be concealed in pink silk mitts or long tan-colored gloves.

He Stumped.

A woman with a market basket on her arm and a big bouquet of flowers in her hand, was waiting at the ferry dock when a man of pleasant address approached her and said: "Madam, this is very fine nosegay."

"Yes, sir."

"I think it is the finest one I ever saw, and I have been in twenty-seven different States."

"Yes, sir."

"There is the pansy hiding itself behind the rose. According to the language of flowers, the pansy stands for 'Dwelling. I cannot live without you.' I likewise observe the rosebud. The language of the rosebud is: 'I'm looking for a husband.' Madam, do you understand the language of flowers?"

"Yes, sir."

"What is the language of that tulip?"

"The tulip says, sir, that if you don't stomp along with your brazen impudence, I'll have you walked into the cooler!" was her firm reply. He stumped.

Great Diamonds.

Some great diamonds have disappeared—are in retirement, so to speak—some have gone to pieces. Others, like the Koh-i-noor, have been remarkably cut so as to have lost their remarkable size. And some, said to relate, are supposed of imposture, are believed to be crystals of white topaz, "which consists," we are told, "of a fluo-silicate mixed with silicate of aluminum."

This suspicion attaches unfortunately to the stone which stands highest on the list, the great Braganza, which is "by far the largest diamond not only now in existence, but of which there is any record," if indeed it is a diamond. It is jealously guarded in the Portuguese treasury. "For obvious financial motives, the Government is naturally anxious that, whatever be its true character, it should continue to be regarded as a genuine diamond," and no wonder, when we read further that it weighs over 111 ounces, or 1,680 carats, is about the size of a goose's egg, and has been valued at \$300,000,000. It was discovered about 1718 in Brazil by three convicts, according to one story and was sent to the Regent of Portugal, Dom John, afterward, John VI. Authorities differ as to its value as well as its genuineness. We have given the highest estimate. That is the opinion of Rome Delisle; but another authority from whom Mr. Streeter constantly quotes, named Murray, in his *Memoir on the Diamond*, considers that in its present form it is worth only \$5,644,800. There is a considerable discrepancy here, which Mr. Streeter does not attempt to adjust, but perhaps M. Delisle meant francs, not pounds sterling. The stone is rough, and has been cut by cutting by reduced about two thirds, or 300 carats. This necessity for cutting down every fine diamond is one of those things which only experts can understand. A jeweler says with a sigh that a diamond is at present in the rough, and is, no doubt, very fine, but that it will be reduced to a mere nothing by cutting. The obvious reply would be, "Then don't cut it," but such a reply could only come from the mouth of some wholly uninitiated. Still the two facts remain, that natural stones are cut, and that in their natural state, and that cutting reduces them in value as well as in weight. The Koh-i-noor, for example, when it arrived in this country, weighed a little over 186 carats. It had been partially cut and polished in India, and had a barbaric magnificence about it which was wholly removed after M. Toorsanger, of Amsterdam, had operated on it. Before cutting, it looked like the prismatic drop of a chandelier. The operation, besides sacrificing so much weight, cost no less than \$8,000. Since Albert openly expressed his dissatisfaction with the work. The Koh-i-noor is a greyish stone, and too thin, or, to use the jeweler's expression, has too much "spread," to be of fine quality; yet even since it was robbed of its great weight it is still valued above \$100,000. Mr. Streeter evidently thinks a great deal of it, as he not only tells us (p. 135) that its alleged "uncanny" powers have "now ceased to be a subject of apprehension," but adds that its "latest history eloquently demonstrates the fact that the extended empire is a blessing just in proportion as it finds hearts and hands willing to fulfill the high duties which increased privileges involve." If the Koh-i-noor can be made to teach all this, cutting may have improved it.

The Entrance Hall at Abbotford.

The entrance hall at Abbotford, the home of Sir Walter Scott, is forty feet long. Its lofty ceiling of oak, fashioned into a series of arches, is exquisitely carved; the walls, which are also oak, from Dunfermline Abbey, are richly decorated in the same manner. The floor is made of black and white marble from the Hebrides. Along the walls are many suits of old armor, the most noticeable being an English suit of the time of Henry V, and an Italian one of more recent date; above them are the coats of arms of the ancient border clans conspicuous among these being the arms of Douglas and the Royal Lion of Scotland. There are also helmets, rapiers and claymores in great variety, as well as Polish lances, and a suit of chain mail taken from the corpse of one of the royal body-guard of Tippecanoe, killed at the battle of the Clouds, when the Hindu city was besieged and captured by the English in 1790. On one side, a niche formed by a window, is a glass case containing the last suit of clothes worn by Sir Walter. Hanging on the wall, at the extreme end near the left door, are the keys of the old Tolbooth prison. There are also relics in this entrance hall of James VI, and Caverhouse, the "Bonny Dundee" of Scottish prose and poetry. Only two windows light the hall, and they are so obscured by coats of arms that the interior has been spoken of as being "as dark as the twelfth century." I leave my young friends who study history to decide how dark that is. Standing in one of the corners, but not visible in the picture, is an American as that was much prized by Sir Walter as the gift of Washington Irving. Many of you have doubtless read Irving's description of his stay at Abbotford. It is a fine tribute to the host who entertained him so royally. The farewell at the gate was "I will not say good-by, but come again." Irving tells us that he was so impressed with the worth with the fact that Sir Walter, notwithstanding the miracles of work he did, contrived to appear ever at the command of his guests, continually devising plans for their enjoyment.

Dress of the Clergy.

He begins by dressing up a lay figure at the time of the Christian era, and shows how his various garments have survived in clerical costume. His shirt, *camisia* or chemise, survives in two forms, the alb, so called from its being white, and the dalmatic, so called from Dalmatia, from whence this shape of it was derived—just as certain great coats, to quote the Dean's illustration, are now called closters. This shirt, after the invasion of the Northern barbarians, used to be drawn over the fur coat, sheep skin or other skin, the *pellice* of the Northern nations, and hence, in the twelfth century, arose the barbarous name of *superpellicium*, or *surplice*, the "over-fur." The present Rector of St. George's in the East, the Rev. Harry Jones, told an amusing story of the Dean which illustrates this point. He came to preach at St. George's one very cold day, wrapped in a fur coat, and Mr. Jones advised him to keep it on during the service. "Yes," said the Dean, "I think I had better do so, and then my surplice will be a true *superpellicium*." Another form of the same dress survives in the Bishop's rochet, which is the little frock or coat worn by the medieval Bishops out of doors when they went out hunting. Similarly the pall of an Archbishop is the relic of the Roman toga, or pallium. It is not so certain as the Dean supposes that cassock is derived from Cassella, "a long overall," which Antonius, a Basiliensis brought from France, and whence derived his name, for it has also been traced to *kas*, skin or hide. But there can be no doubt that cassock comes from *casua*, a slang name used by the Italian laborers for the *capote*, which they called "their little house," as "tile" is, or was a short time ago, used for "hat," and as coat is the same word as "cote" or "cottage," nor that "cape" is another form of overcoat—a sort of waterproof; or that the miter was an ordinary head-dress worn by women, and still, according to the Dean, to be seen in the museums of Russia as the cap or turban worn on festive occasions in ancient days by Princes and nobles, and even to this day by the peasant woman. The division into two points is, he says, "only the mark of the crease, which is the consequence of its having been, like an opera hat, folded and carried under the arm." The stole, lastly, was a simple handkerchief for common use. On State occasions such handkerchiefs were used as ribbons, streamers or scarfs, and were hence adopted by the laicists, who had little else to distinguish them. The Dean mentions a curious modern illustration of the way in which the use of such a slight symbol may arise. When Sir James Brooke first returned from Borneo, where the only sign of royalty was to hold a kerchief in the hand, he retained the practice in England. The process by which these simple garments passed into official use is easily traced. First, the early Christian clergy and lay alike, when they came to their public assemblies, took care that their clothes, though the same as they usually wore, should be especially neat and clean. Next, it was natural that the colors and forms chosen should be of a grave and sober tint. Lastly came the process, which may be easily followed in English society during the last two centuries, of common fashions becoming fixed in certain classes at particular moments and of what was once common to all becoming peculiar to a few.

A Long-Haired Roarer.

About the year 1851 the most influential man in San Antonio was an alleged desperado named Bob Augustine. Bob came to San Antonio with a fearful record. He enjoyed the reputation of having killed a dozen or so of men, and was respected accordingly. While he was in San Antonio he did not reduce the census at all, but that was not his fault. He had a seductive way of drawing his eighteen-inch Arkansas toothpick and examining it critically with a stange stare, while calmly resting the jaw on \$5. Thus was that Bob went about acquiring wealth and warm friends, but created no fanerals. There were rumors that Bob was playing bluff, but that was after he had learned how to play. It was during the reign of Bob Augustine, "the long-haired roarer of the Calaveras canyon," as he familiarly called himself, that a young man from Boston, named John Winthrop, came to San Antonio, presumably in search of health, as he brought very little with him. He was far gone in consumption, and nothing but the fact that he had not a short time to live, unless the climate of Western Texas saved him, induced him to come to San Antonio. As everybody carried a pistol, Winthrop did not care to insult public decency by going unarmed. Besides, such a course might have served as a warning with restoration to health as putting on a clean shirt.

Strengthening Up Trees.

In August and September trees begin to harden their wood, and as the twig is then bent the tree will be inclined. A man usually arranges its foliage symmetrically, the shoots that are laggard the next year, or so filling up vacancies and irregularities. But a stem once hardened in conformity cannot recover without aid. Only a stake stiffer than itself, so applied as to press against the convexity of the bend, while the "loose end" portion is drawn toward the stake and then close up to it, will remedy the disfigurement. It is surprising how few of those who attempt to straighten a tree stem by a stake apply the stake so as to effect their object. Set it on the side from which the stem curves, and close to the stem. Set it now, just below the wood hardens. Tie it at the bottom, top and middle, so that the tree stem will be straight in the stake, and so that the wind may not displace it. Address, if necessary, to hold the stem erect after the stake has made it straight (by October the stake may be dispensed with) and if you have got a perpendicular eye in your level head it will be a continual pleasure to look over thereafter at that erect support of the head of foliage.

Concessions at Detroit.

When the train going west over the Detroit, Lansing and Northern R. R. had pulled out of Howell the other day the conductor discovered that a man who should have stepped off there was still on board.

"Didn't you hear the brakeman call out your station?" he asked.

"Yes, I heard him call Howell, but how did I know it was the Howell I wanted to get off? I've never travelled over this road before."

"Well, we don't have but one Howell on this line."

"Then why didn't you come to me like a man and say so? I'm from Nova Scotia, and how was I to know here that your country was full of Howells?"

"Passengers should know where they want to get off," muttered the conductor. "So they should, sir, and if you had kindly come to me and notified me that this was the only Howell and that this was the Howell where my aunt lives I should not now be here, sir. I shall now have to get off this train until I have advice of her Majesty's Council at Detroit."

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The first copper cent was coined in New Haven in 1687.

India has about 20,000 acres under wheat.

The first use of a locomotive in this country was in 1729.

Prince Bismarck has of late taken to wearing spectacles.

The first telescope was probably used in England in 1608.

Queen Victoria has finished the forty-fourth year of her reign.

The first saw-maker's anvil was brought to America in 1819.

The first printing press in the United States was introduced in 1620.

The first almanac was printed by George Von Parbach, in 1490.

The first chimneys were introduced into Rome from Padua, in 1458.

There are 10,229 dogs in Brooklyn. The license is two dollars each.

Ordinary mail mounts contains upwards of 70 per cent of water.

It is said that Coleridge wrote his poem "Kubla Khan" in a dream.

Nevada reports 32,087 horses within its border, and 108,137 cattle.

In 1872, 10,000 tons of coal was mined in Alabama in 1881 400,000 tons.

James I. was called by Henry IV. of France "The wisest fool in Christendom."

The first steam engine on this continent was brought from England in 1783.

The first act for the transmission of the English mails by railway was passed in 1825.

Isaac D'Israeli claims to have introduced the term "Fatherland" into English.

There were \$10,000,000 worth of barbed wire fence built in this country last year.

More than twenty-three thousand British soldiers were punished last year for drunkenness.

In certain Arkansas towns liquor dealers are required to pay \$1000 a year for their licenses.

Notwithstanding England is a great dairy country, \$26,225,575 worth of cheese was imported last year.

The total acreage of wheat in this country is 24,346,000 acres, an increase of 500,000 acres over last year.

Taking the United States as a whole, the rate of increase among persons over ten years of age is one in six.

Virginia has expended on her public schools during the past year \$1,100,238.96. She has 5,382 of these schools.

Huntington's Portrait of Mrs. Hayes has at last been hung on the wall of the green parlor of the Executive Mansion.

At Lexington, Ky., a man who was using the telephone as an electric shock that prostrated him for several hours.

Orchard grass is very early in growth and furnishes good hay. It starts out fresh immediately after each mowing.

Gustave Dore has just bought a site in Paris, for something more than \$115,000, on which he will build him a mansion.

Thirty-three electric light companies have been started in England, and they have a total aggregate capital of \$33,000,000.

One-half of the \$32,000 desired for the new building of the Young Men's Christian Association of Washington has been subscribed.

A few days after Victoria's coronation, Mr. Metcalf was elected Sheriff of London, the first who had ever been chosen for that office.

During the year 1881, according to the Registrar General's report, 139 persons for every 100,000 of the population of Scotland died of old age, and only 111 for every 100,000 of the population of England.

Mrs. Christine Nilson has been visiting the Duke and Duchess of Albany at Grosvenor, England. She will sail for New York in October.

The public schools of Wilmington, Delaware, contain about 5,000 pupils and only about fifteen are graduated yearly from the High School.

Mr. D. D. Lloyd, a New York journalist, has written a political play, entitled "For Congress," which has been accepted by Mr. John T. Raymond.

A man at San Antonio, Tex., threw dynamite in the river to fill his miscalculating the distance, had both his hands blown off by the explosion.

Col. Noah Orr, the Ohio giant, who was buried at Marysville on Monday, required a coffin 8 feet long, 24 feet wide and 2 feet high. His brother, George Orr, who was seven times, is 6 feet, 10 inches in height.

The rapid growth of Winnipig is shown by the fact that the assessed valuation of Portage la Prairie amounts this year to \$7,500,000, while last year it was only \$1,000,000.

Falguieres, the French sculptor, is erecting a monument at the Arch of Triumph, Paris, a group of figures of heroic size, symbolic of the triumph of progress and liberalism in France.

There has been a marked increase in the number of failures this year in the United States. For the first six months 3,327 are reported, as compared with 2,862 for the first six months of 1881.

The success of the Paris Salon for the present year has been decided. The total receipts amounted to about \$80,000, and over half of this sum was clear profit. The exhibition was managed, as it was managed last year, by the artists themselves. The society formed by the artists has now a capital of \$70,000.

In the Hall of the Five Hundred, at Florence, Italy, a fortnight ago, was unveiled before a large assemblage a statue of Savonarola. Among the speeches that were made at the ceremonies were one by a Senator and another by Professor Villari, the well-known biographer of the great Florentine reformer.

A recent report on the estate of the late James Lick, of San Francisco, shows it to be worth now \$1,948,350.86. Out of this are to be paid \$700,000 (less \$102,978.73, already paid) for an observatory and telescope; to the California School of Mechanical Arts, \$540,000; for free public baths, \$150,000; for bronze statues in San Francisco and to the Old Ladies Home, \$100,000 each; for a monument to Francis Scott Key, \$60,000; and other bequests to benevolent societies, etc., amounting in all to \$1,727,371.37.