

RETURN OF THE FISHING FLEET.

The boats come sailing up the bay,
And one by one their anchors cast;
Storm-beaten are their sides and gray;
Their flags are at half-mast.

And one by one they furl their sails,
And slowly pay their anchors out;
Ropes, frayed and white, hang from
their rails,
With broken spars about.

Like phantom ships they cross the bay,
With hulls and rigging weather worn;
See, half their lifeboats washed away,
Their canvas stained and torn.

And of the men they carried out
But few, it seems, are there on deck;
They move as ghosts might move about
Upon some battered wreck.

Then from the shore the watchers cry,
"Where is my brother, husband, son?"
"Lost on the banks," the dread reply
Goes back in words that stun.

—Waverley Magazine.

CHECKMATED.

By C. Stanley.

It was a queer old house, half dismantled and overgrown with ivy. Standing by itself, on the very borders of a dismal-looking part of the country, where a few travelers came. Thane Underhill had selected it as the most secure hiding place for the woman he intended some day to make his wife.

If he could have won her consent she would have been his wife long ago; but Alice Miles had a will of her own, notwithstanding her low spirit had been sadly broken by the treatment she had undergone, she still refused to listen to Thane Underhill's prostration of love.

For three months she had been secluded in that ruinous old house, with only one servant for company and protection, and the dreadful thought haunting and fro in her mind that in one week more he would make her his wife, unless in that time she could manage to escape.

Out of her narrow windows she could see the moon, and a white-robed train of stars, that lighted up the dim fields stretching away toward the sea; she could catch the sweet murmurs of the winds that wafted by, drifting away under the cool shadow of the trees; far away there was the sound of a bell, rising and falling on the lone-some night air.

And as she sat there in the moonlight stillness a host of happy memories thronged her brain, whose perished brightness brought tears to her eyes.

There was her mother, who mourned her as dead, and who was going down in sorrow to the grave—and there was Acton Lloyd, whose promised wife she was six months before; he thought her false first—then dead—and she had no knowledge of him at all.

It was a long time before she even knew so much. It was one night, when locked in her lonely room, and Thane Underhill had supposed her asleep, that he had jested carelessly with the man who had promised to marry them, and revealed all his own villainy to the shuddering listener.

"Hush! not so loud!" the second voice had said. "She may hear you!"

"It would not matter if she did!" and that she knew was in Thane Underhill's voice. "I have treated her with kindness long enough, in the hope that she would learn to love me; for in spite of the sneer of your face, I love the girl; and would give half I possess if she loved me in return." But she never will, and so she must be my wife without it.

"How will you manage it?"

"I shall take tea with her tomorrow night, and put a powder in her cup which will make her powerless to resist us. It won't injure her, but for the time it will do as I command her. She will do as I command her. When the old clock in the hall, there strikes ten you will come in and say the words that are to make her my wife."

"And what do you propose to do then? Live here and enjoy yourselves like a pair of turtle doves?"

"We must stay here a week or two," Thane Underhill rejoined, "until I can settle my business affairs, and then I shall take her abroad. Her mother and her lover both suppose that she eloped with me and was killed in that railway collision." So they sit at home and mourn, and give me a chance to carry out my plans."

Thane Underhill did in reality suppose that Ethelyn White, the girl who had waited on Alice for the last four days, had given her a sleeping potion, and that her senses were locked in slumber; but for some purpose of her own Ethelyn had withheld it, and so Alice had heard every word of the conversation in the next room.

When they went out she crept quietly away from the bed and threw herself down on the floor in an agony of weeping.

There was a slight noise at the door, and the little waiting-maid came softly in, holding up her dress lest it should rustle on the floor.

"Are you asleep, Miss Alice?" she whispered.

"No," said Alice, aloud.

"Hush! Speak in whispers, and do not lose your courage, for you have friends waiting to help you."

"Heaven be thanked!" exclaimed Alice. "But who are you? Are you one of my friends?"

"You shall know who I am in good time," the maid rejoined. "If I had not been your friend you would have had a drink tonight that would have sent you to sleep two hours ago. Have you gained anything by being awake?"

"Everything!" said Alice, softly,

ALUMINUM INDUSTRY.

62 percent of the electrical conductivity of copper. Hence a wire about one-eighth larger in diameter than a copper wire will conduct equally well, and at the same time will weigh less than half as much. At the present prices of the metals, aluminum is considerably less costly, and the lighter wires may be supported by poles placed farther apart than is safe in the case of copper. Many power-transmission lines are already using aluminum, and most of those in course of construction are employing it. An example of this use is found at Hartford, Conn., where 2000 horse-power for lighting purposes is transmitted 11 miles from a waterfall at Torrville. The electric lights at the Pan-American exposition in Buffalo were fed from Niagara Falls, 70 miles away, over an aluminum line.

Steel making, also, absorbs large quantities of aluminum, the metal being used as a deoxidizing agent in the Bessemer and Siemens-Martin processes. At present the annual product in the United States is about 7,150,000 pounds, and increasing rapidly, the selling price of the metal being so low that, bulk for bulk, it is the cheapest metal produced, except iron, steel and zinc. As an example of an industry entirely developed by scientific research, aluminum production is of deep interest. The career of the metal as an industrial factor is evidently just begun.

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

Some enthusiasts at Dundee (Scotland) anglers are about to convert a morass near the town into an artificial loch 35 acres in extent, so as to have Loch Leven trout near at home.

Within half an hour of the death of one of a pair of twin boys at Leicester, England, the other one died, through, the doctor said, a certain curious sympathy which exists between twins.

The South McAlester (Indian Territory) News relates that a negro criminal in the Choctaw nation was so badly scared by being arrested that he turned an ashen gray, and has never recovered his proper color.

Lord Wolseley owns the costliest sword in Great Britain. It was a gift to him and is valued at \$10,000; but there is, many an old holo which has done more execution in hewing down bushes and men than the diamond-studded blade of the British general.

German newspapers mention among the signs of the time a recent announcement regarding Hugo Zu Hohenlohe-Oehringen, the first German prince who has turned merchant. With a merchant named Schode he has formed a company, with a capital of \$75,000, for using oil to lay the dust in roads.

The most literary monarch in Europe is, without doubt, the young Victor Emmanuel of Italy. He knows English, French and German as well as his native language and has even a reading acquaintance with that very difficult language, Russian. He spends at least three hours every day in his study, busy with current literature of every kind.

Cats, large and small, make the most careful toilet of any class of animals, excepting some of the opossums. The lions and tigers wash themselves in exactly the same manner as the cat, wetting the dark, rubber-like ball of the fore foot and inner toe and passing it over the face and behind the ears. The foot is thus at the same time a face sponge and brush, and the rough tongue combs the rest of the body.

The English newspapers report a new application in Australia of the principle of the coin-in-the-slot machine, stating that if a stamp cannot be purchased conveniently it will be possible in the future to drop a letter into one office of a postal box and a penny into a second office, and the words "One penny paid" will be found impressed on the envelope when the box is opened by the post-office authorities, thereby securing the transmission of the letter.

Mosquitoes Kill Chickens.

Big gallinipper mosquitoes, that seem to have can-openers in place of stingers, are attacking chickens in the East End, and they are said already to have killed 22 fowls owned by Mrs. Bridget Owens of Fulton street. All of the chickens were attacked while roosting. The mosquitoes seem to descend toward the earth from high in the air early in the evening or after darkness and attack animals of all kinds. It is thought that they breed in low, marshy places, but fly high most of the time.

The usual point of attack is the comb. Chickens which were in good shape when they went to roost at night come limping from their houses in the morning with their combs mangled and inflamed. Death comes in a day or so.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

His Charity.

Martha—I wonder that Mabel encourages Mr. Gay; surely, he can't be worth much or he wouldn't always look so shabby.

Mary—Oh, that's no sign; they say he gives articles of clothing to his uncle every day or two. At any rate, that's what Fred told me. The uncle, he says, lives down town at the sign of the gilt balls.—Boston Transcript.

MANIFOLD USES OF THIS REMARKABLE METAL.

For Three-Quarters of a Century It Was a Scientific Curiosity—At Last a Process Was Found Both Simple and Cheap.

The history of the metal aluminum and its use in the arts is peculiarly illustrative of the method of industrial development, aided and fostered by scientific research, says the New York Evening Post. For three-quarters of a century the metal was a scientific curiosity, but the appearance of a demand for it resulted in the almost immediate perfection of methods for its extraction, whereby its cost was so reduced as to make it available for common uses.

As long ago as 1807, Sir Humphrey Davy conjectured the existence of a metallic element as a component of clays and alumina. In 1828 a German chemist, Wobler, actually separated the metal from its compounds, and discovered its remarkable physical properties of lightness, toughness and ductility. But for more than 60 years no use was found for aluminum, beyond an occasional employment of very small quantities in the construction of scientific apparatus. At the centennial exposition in 1876 a surveyor's transit made of aluminum was exhibited, but its remarkable lightness was even less astonishing than the value placed upon it—aluminum was then about six times as expensive as silver.

Naturally, in the progress of engineering and invention that distinguished the last quarter of the 19th century, the attention of inventors and constructors was attracted to the new metal, and it was freely predicted that much use would be made of it, if its cost could be reduced so that it might compete with cheaper materials of structure. Weighing only about one-third as much as an equal bulk of brass or copper, it resists most acids, has a white lustre, is an excellent conductor of electricity, and is possessed of many other desirable qualities.

Here, then, was the incentive to inventors, and many chemists set out to discover a method for the economical extraction of aluminum. Its ores exist in great abundance, common clay containing a large proportion of the metal; but of all substances these were ores seemed most refractory and least amenable to chemical treatment. A number of processes of a purely chemical nature were devised, but none of them reduced the cost of production to such a point that the metal could compete with steel and brass as an element of construction.

At last a process was found that is both simple and cheap. It was discovered that cryolite, a mineral found in great quantity in Greenland and consisting almost wholly of aluminum fluoride, was easily melted, and that in its fluid state it dissolved crude alumina as readily as water dissolves sugar. A powerful current of electricity passed through this molten mixture was found to extract the metallic aluminum, and the process was also seen to be regenerative; that is, the cryolite is not consumed, but is used over and over, the molten bath being supplied from time to time with crude alumina. This material exists in nature as a mineral, named bauxite, after the town Les Baux, near Aries, in the south of France, where deposits of it are found. Vast beds of it exist also in Arkansas and elsewhere in this country.

The smelting process is of the simplest. In an iron vat, about the size and shape of an ordinary bath-tub, is melted a charge of cryolite, a gas furnace supplying the necessary heat. When the charge is melted, powdered bauxite is stirred in, and an electric current is turned on between cast-iron electrodes immersed in the mixture. The electric current furnishes enough heat to keep the mass melted, and the liquid aluminum collects at the bottom of the bath, whence it is tapped off from time to time. Once started, the process is continuous until the dirt and impurities collected in the vat require it to be drained and recharged.

Aluminum, extracted by this process at Niagara Falls, at Kensington, Pa., at Foyers, in Scotland, and at numerous establishments on the continent of Europe, took its place in the arts immediately. As an element of construction, however, it did not meet the expectations of its earlier advocates. It was found to be difficult to work, gumming the teeth of files and stoutly resisting cutting and drilling tools on account of its toughness. But new uses at once developed. The German army investigated it, and found that helmets of aluminum, as light as felt, would turn the glancing impact of a bullet. Its military uses are almost innumerable. Besides helmets, buttons, cooking utensils, canteens, cart-ridges cases and clips, sword and bayonet scabbards—in short, almost all metallic accoutrements—are now made of it. The French government built a torpedo-boat of it, but sea water attacks the metal, and it is not believed that it will find much use in marine work. Notwithstanding, the blocks, cleats and some other metallic parts of racing yachts have been made of it. It has been used as a substitute for tinfoil as a roofing material. Makers of photographic apparatus and optical goods use it largely, and it is rapidly displacing tin as a material for bottle caps, boxes for druggists' use, etc. An extensive market for it is furnished by makers of fancy goods, souvenirs, medals and tokens, and toilet articles, such as combs.

But the largest use was found in an unexpected quarter. Aluminum has

2000 horse-power for lighting purposes is transmitted 11 miles from a waterfall at Torrville. The electric lights at the Pan-American exposition in Buffalo were fed from Niagara Falls, 70 miles away, over an aluminum line.

JUST FOR FUN.

Barnes—Was Bentley seriously hurt? Howes—Very seriously; was hit on the funny bone.

Harding—Is Boulder a man to be trusted? Stanley—Why, that's the only way you can sell him anything.

"Is your wife economic?" "Very. She can fix over a \$10 hat for \$15 so it will look just as good as a new one."—Puck.

"Mrs. Fondmar—Don't you think baby grows more like me every day? Fondmar—Yes, dear, especially so since she began to talk.—Life.

"I want to get a divorce," she told the lawyer. "What has your husband been doing?" he asked. "Nothing," she replied. "Cleveland Ledger."

"Poor old Versley died last night." "Indeed?" "Yes, he turned over and died without a struggle." "Well, he died easier than he lived, then."—New Orleans Picayune.

Harry—How is it you're not carrying a cane these days? Theodore—My dear boy, I don't feel equal to it. It's as much as I can do to walk without it, don't you know.

Kate—I suppose you consider yourself handsome? Grace—Oh, dear, no; but then it's just like me to think differently from everybody else. I am so eccentric, you know.

Hilda—I wonder why it is that sailors and men are so profane? Uncle Henry—Why, don't you know? They learn it of the parrots in foreign lands. Hilda—There! I might have known.

Uncle John—Don't you think it rather extravagant in you to smoke such expensive cigars? Richard—it would be if I didn't make it up by economy in another direction—my wife's hats and gowns.

Dingus—Old fellow, it is the same old story. I'm in need of a little financial succor. Shadbolt—You'll have to hunt further. I am not the little financial sucker I used to be.—Chicago Tribune.

Fuddy—Dr. Pellets has had a long experience, but he never doctors himself. When he is under the weather, he invariably calls in another physician. Duddy—Apparently he draws the line at suicide.

"Don't you think he lacks aplomb?" asked Mrs. Oldcastle. "Well," replied her hostess, "I don't know, but at the dinner the other night it did seem to be as though he couldn't get enough peaches."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Fannie—And what did you say when he said you were the first girl he had ever proposed to? Blanche—I told him he was the first man who had ever proposed to me. And, do you know, I don't think he felt a bit flattered. Funny, isn't it?

Bickers—Hello, Welby! you didn't have to undergo an operation for appendicitis, after all? Welby—No; the doctors discovered that I was too poor to pay for it. So I had to get well without it. The fact is, there's no chance for a poor man in this world.

Giffie—What's your experience with street-car hogs? Spinks—I had one move up and give me the end seat this summer. Giffie—Merely from politeness? Spinks—No; I think rather from prudence. You see, there was a shower beginning.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

"Anyway," said the Cheerful Idiot, as he looked over the Tired Citizen's shoulders at the picture of an Igorrotte dog feast, "that's one part of the canine they don't seem to fancy." "What's that?" asked the Tired Citizen, accommodatingly. "The pants," replied the Cheerful Idiot, with loud laughter.—Baltimore American.

Ma in High Favor.

General Ma's vigilance has earned him high favor at Court, says the London Graphic, and both the Dowager Empress and the Emperor have lately been showering upon him testimonials of their approval. The other day their Majesties sent him two pieces of the finest gauze to make a suit of summer clothes, a number of scented pouches and a heavily-gilded fan, on one side of which is a water color painting by the imperial hand of the Dowager Empress herself, and on the other some verses written by the Emperor, with the heading, "Yu Kuo Kan-cheng," which means "A Wall of Defense to the Empire." Attentions like these are rare in China, and the talk in Mandarin circles is now all of General Ma and his splendid future.

A HAY FEVER ROMANCE.

"Will you be mine?" the lover cried—
(They sat beneath a maple tree.)
And bashfully the maid replied,
"Oh, Archibald! Kerchug! Kerchee!"

"I've loved you long," he wildly said,
"My heart doth ever beat for you."
The maiden shyly bowed her head
And softly murmured, "Ah, Kerchoo!"

"Oh, say," beseeched the ardent swain,
"If you will share my cottage snug?"
The damsel bent her head again,
And cooily whispered, "Woor-ker-chug!"

"I love you, too," he cried, "my own!
And I will share your humble room."
The youth replied in burning tone,
"Oh, ecstasy! Kerchug! Ah-whoof!"

The birds looked down upon the scene,
The asters nodded in the breeze;
And so they plighted troth, I ween,
And sealed it with a mighty sneeze.

—Philadelphia Bulletin.

FARM TOPICS.

HOOG FEEDS.

At the Ontario station swine feeding experiments justified the following conclusions: Barley alone gets larger gains than when combined with either oats or corn. Barley and roots gave larger gains than barley alone. Cooked roots gave much better results than raw roots, but it is very probable that the individuality of the animals had more to do with causing this difference than the cooking of the roots. In the case of cooked roots, one pound of grain proved equivalent to 5.9 pounds of roots. This is not nearly so high a value as many people place upon roots for feeding hogs; but it corresponds very closely with the results of extensive Danish experiments.

ROSE COMB ANDALUSIANS.

I was a breeder of the single comb variety several seasons and found them to be one of the very best varieties of the Mediterranean class. But I was never contented with admiration for the single comb, anyway; and the lop comb of the females in this and other varieties of the Mediterranean class it seemed to me might well be replaced by a neat rose comb, without sacrificing any desirable point in this handsome and useful variety. So I set to work, and each season since have had the satisfaction of producing more and more perfect birds. till now I have Andalusian cockerels and pullets that are not one whit behind the best single comb specimens in the country in any point that goes to make up a perfect blue Andalusian, and every one of which has a nice rose comb. The best of my birds are now simply perfect.

I notice with regret that one breeder advertises "rose comb blue Andalusians," very pretty, with "yellow legs." This breeder ought not to do so. A rose comb blue Andalusian should conform in every particular to the standard for the older (single comb) variety, except in the one matter of comb. No blue Andalusian, either single or rose comb, should have yellow legs.—W. B. Trowbridge, in The American Cultivator.

FROM A SHEPHERD'S BOOK.

Read the best ewes to the best rams. The way to keep ideal sheep is by trying to improve them.

Sheep are always improving or they are deteriorating.

An uneven lot of good sheep are better than an even lot of poor ones.

Stationary troughs and racks are not desirable in the sheep stable.

Ewes will produce larger and better lambs if in a plump condition at the time of mating.

At weaning, if possible, the ewes should be placed in a field out of hearing of the lambs.

It is well to place the ewes on short pasture for a week or more after the lambs are weaned.

Sheep are easily managed, are first-class fertilizing machines, good farm scavengers, and yield two harvests annually.

In many cases after the corn is laid by, the sheep may be turned into the corn fields to a good advantage.

When purchasing a ram for breeding purposes, it should be better than the best in your flock.

If a radical change in the rations is made too suddenly, growth of both body and fleece is liable to suffer a check.

In some localities, at least, sheep should be looked upon as auxiliaries in keeping up the fertility of the land rather than a means of profit.

The ram needs to be changed every two years and fresh blood infused in the flock. All things considered, a three-year-old ram is best when breeding to improve.—American Cultivator.

FEMININE DAIRY WISDOM.

Sweet apples also are most valuable; not one should go to waste.

Use plenty of land plaster. Clean the stalls at least twice each day.

Utilize all food to help carry the cows in winter quarters in the best of health and thrift.

Sour apples may be fed, but very carefully, as they sometimes make the mouth sore.

Pumpkins fed with the grain will result in an increase in yield of milk over grain fed alone.

The best evidence that a cow has the right kind of food and sufficient food is a sleek, soft skin.

Exposure to cold, storms and short, fog-shrouded pastures will reduce them so much that the whole winter will be a loss.—The Farmer's Review.

Look out as the cold nights come that the cows are in their stalls and have a good supply of fodder; all they will eat up clean.

Let all the sunshine in the stables that is possible. Dark stables are always damp. Damp stables are an abomination.

The cow stable should be kept so clean and so well ventilated that the absence of disagreeable odor will be noticeable. It is easy—try it.

Make the stable more comfortable for the coming winter, see that the windows are well fitted and the broken glass reheated before the frosty days come.—The Farmer's Review.

Arrange a warm, sunny, cozy corner for the calves, and give them a chance to be happy and thrifty. Their future usefulness depends upon it.—Dorothy Tucker, in Farm Journal.

Cold bearing quartz has been found in Ceylon, but it remains to be seen whether it is present in sufficient quantity to be commercially successful.