Senfaring men with babes at home

And wistful wives who cannot sleep Feed little mearth-fires warm and red, And comforted their vigil keep With that great star-flame overhead.

Night wears apare; the blackest nigh Wanes when the womb of morning breaks.
With lance and spear from heavenly height
Her conquering way the new day takes.

And one by one the weary boats, All drenched and spent, are beached

inst:
The children hug the wet sea-coats:
The good wives sing of perils past.
—Margaret E.Sangster, in Harper's liazar.

A Duel in the Gold-Fields.

They had been friends all their

There had been, in their native village, two vine-covered cottages side by side, and all one summer on the veranda of one or the other of these little homes two young women had sat sewing through the long afternoon on dainty white garments, setting each stitch with a prayer and weaving with the flying needle more precious things than cross-stitch and feather-edge, as they talked of their babies' future, as loving women will, and planned great things for the coming ones to eccomplish.

Then these mothers conferred together about the momentous question of "shortening," and, this decided, the baby boys had each become acquainted with the restless pink playfellows at the edge of his petticoat at the identical moment. The women bore each other company during the trying period of the little ones' teething, their croup and measles, and, in due time, cut from one pattern their

first short trousers, their little coats. When the boys were six, they were ready for the September term of school, and the two mothers led them up to begin the second chapter,

as they had done the first, together. Red-mittened and tippeted in winter, they played with their sleds on the hill on whose top the schoolhouse stood, and one day a little girl watched them as they flew down, and began crying.

The two boys trudged up to her "You can ride on my sled," said

"I'll pull you up again on my sled,"

said the other.

And so the story began. Tue years went by, and Charles Paxton and Sidney Harper fulfilled their promises. Nellie Ransom rode on both sleds; and the boys were her chivalric defenders and champions in in every cause. If she failed in her arithmetic the teacher received black looks, and if she cried over her grammar each boy felt a personal eucounter with Lindley Murray was all that could wipe out the stain. So far the old friendship was as strong as ever, and they fought, as one, the battles of the yellow-haired girl, There came the swift, strange transforma-tion of the heart which makes a boy a man; these lads turned, on one day, shy, troubled eyes each to the other face; and when their glauces fell, something from within had risen to veil forever their frank and friendly

They were rivals; and the pretty, w little thing, pout under her wide-brimmed hat, had known it all along.

Nell Ransom was the beauty of the neighborhood; a little creature, softeyed and golden-haired, with youth-ful curves and dimples. She was the daughter of a farmer; one of a half dozen girls, but the only one among them with any pretensions to good looks. So the rough old man spoiled

"When I'm plowin'," he said, in reply to some one who reproached him for treating Nell better than he treated her sisters, "I run right through the bouncin' betties an' smartweed, but I vanny ef I can run over a wild rose. That little gal of mine wan't meant for common folks like us. I feel good deal like 'pologizin' to her fur bein' her father. But, seein' she's ours, I'm goin' to make life jest as easy as I can fur her, an' kinder keep her on the warm side of the shack."

So the little girl was sheltered and petted by the rude but tender hands. and it is not strange that she grew up with no care for any one but her own pleasure and comfort. When she was 16 there were many moths singed by the brightness of her hair; many hearts wounded by the darts from her blue eyes; but she didn't realize that there was any harm. Here was not a bad or cruel heart—she simply

Didn't, and wouldn't and couldn't know And did not understand.

The two friends whose hearts had en pushed apart by her little, unteeling hands had grown to love her just in proportion to the way they had come to hate one another. Charles Paxton tried-first; was refused and went away; no one knew whither, but man grew gray as she sat on the ittle, vine-covered versuds and turned her eyes, with their waiting and lis-tening look, westward.

Then Bidney Harper put his fate to the touch; he, too, left the village, and two women again sat together praying and fearing on one of the porches through a long summer.

It was midsummer in the Klondike, ent the sir was as chill as it is when adehesked Canadis as start journey-ng on anow-shees over erisp fields of

sparkling snow. On left and right were stretches timbered with the sturdy pines that straggled like an army over plain and hill, and sent a vanguard up the mountain from whose farther timber line it seemed to signal to the troops below. In front lay the river coiling like a twist of silver braid, and farther on the everlasting hills rose, height on height, to pierce the perfect azure of the sky.

vo men stood in this amphitheatre of the north, their rough and bearded faces turned toward each other as they had been turned in the cradle swaying on a cottage veranda so many years ago. Their eyes flashed like steel to steel in the morning light, and their lips were set in lines never seen by those two waiting mothers.

"It's the only way out of it," said one, at last, doggedly; as if to bring to a close a long and useless argument. "We didn't come here to meet each other, and the place isn't big enough to hold us both. We've both struck it rich, and Nell Ransom owns us and our mines. One can go back to her-with all bue gold of both-

The other finished the sentence: "The pistol shall decide which one

it shall be." Calmly the men paced the distance and took their places, the revolvers catching each added gleam that faltered through the pines against the enstern sky.

"One!" and the line of light rose to the level of those strong, bared bosoms.

"Wait a minute, boys! Wait a minute."

An old miner stepped out of the thicket and walked leisurely between the duelists. He was known to both men as a quaint character of their own village, a man who had been among the defeated gold-seekers of '49 and '50. He had struck camp but the day previous to this meeting.

"I've ben watchin' ye a leetle, boys," he said. "I ain't said much, but I've kep' a-thinkin. young blood, an' I calc'lated it was ust about time fur it to bile over; but

I've got a powder to cool it.' He lighted his pipe and puffed medi tatively.

The young men turned angrily. "Oh, ye needn't get riled, now, he continued, pulling a fine grass and cleaning his pipe-stem with it, "but I reckon there ain't either one of ye

mean enough to fight over another man's wife!" He stoped and looked at the rivals

sidewise; the words had gone home.
"I calc'late ye don't git the papers reg'lar here; trains is sometimes late, ye know; bein' there ain't no tracks fur 'em to run on, an' like as not yer mail sin't real prompt, an' ye don't use yer dust fur telegraphin' when ye got no lightnin' chained. p'r'aps ye don't know that that gal of Ransom's-there, stand still an'

with yer shootin'!—is married.' Two lines of light sauk suddenly downward as the pistols fell with the nerveless hands. The old man saw it

with a twinkle of his faded eyes. "That's right, boys; now come here and I'll tell you about it."

Slowly and with shawed faces Sidney Harper and Charles Paxton drew near and heard the old miner's

"Yes." he said, after the whole had been recited, "she married a no-account feller, an' has taken him home to the old folks. She wasn't never with dyin' fur lads; but when I came away I seen two other wimmin' wuth livin' fur. They're a wait in' on their cottage porches now as I've seen 'em sit for 30 years. Only them babies, them little shavers they hold an' cuddle ain't there; they-

"Stop! God bless you, you old meddler --- '

One man spoke, but the other's eyes made answer.

"Those are the women we'll live for and care for and go home to see!' And, single file, with strange new looks the men went back to camp. -Grace D. Boylan, in the Brooklyn Standard-Union.

Quaint Old Curacao.

Curacao is a Dutch colony, and the quaintest little island in the world. It is not bigger than the District of Columbia, but has about 40,000 in habitants, and has played an important part in the history of America. It has belonged at different times to England, Spain and Holland, and its cozy harbor has been the scene of many a bloody battle between the navies of the old world, well as between the pirates and buccaneers that infested the Carribeau ea for two centuries. It has been for 100 years and still is an asylum for political fugitives, and many of the revolutions that rack and wreck the republics on the Spanish main are hatched under the shelter of the pretentious but harmless fortresses that guard its port. Bolivar, Santa Anna and many other famous men in Spanish-American history have lived there in exile, and until recently there was an imposing castle upon one of the hills called Bolivar's Tower. There the founder of five republics lived in banishment for several years and wait-

d for rescue. The houses are built in the Dutch style, exactly like those in Holland; the streets are so narrow that the people can almost shake hands through their windows with their neighbors across the way, and the walls are as thick as would be needed for a for-The Dutch governor lives in a solemu-looking old mansion fronting the Shattegat, or lagoon, that forms the harbor, guarded by a company of stupid-looking soldiers with a few oldfashioned cannon. The entire island is of phosphates, and the government receives a revenue of \$500,000 from companies that ship them away.—

-Chicago Record.

FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

Cows Eating Straw.

Wherever much grain is grown, and the grain is stacked in the barnyard, it is necessary to build a stack around it to keep cows from eating it. Freshly threshed straw, even when all the grain is out, is palatable to cows at this season of the year. But they should be kept from it if the milk yield is to be maintained. Even a little straw will dry off the cow very fast, and if grain is fed with it, the effect will only be to fatten the cow rather than to keep up the milk flow.

Flax Grown With Other Grain.

Under some conditions it may be dvisable to grow flax with other grain. Flax is a very exhaustive crop but in this fact lies the advantage when grain is sown on very rich land in mixing some flux-seed with it. the flax is not grown the grain will grow too rank a straw, while with the dax to help exhaust the superfluous fertility there is less danger of this, There will be more of the grain grown, while all the flaxseed that is harvested will be so much clear gain. Barley is one of the best grains to grow with flax, as both are ready to cut at the ame time. But both should be very lightly seeded if clover seed is sown the same spring, else there will be a poor entch of clover.

Stacking in the Field.

When drawing in grain after the barus are all filled it is often a great convenience to build a stack of grain in the field and leave it there until breshing time. It will make some extra labor in threshing, but at time labor is not so valuable as it is at harvesting time. In fact, stacking in the field may be the only means of securing the crop of fields distant from the farm. In winter some stock may be kept around the stack, and grain or hay brought from the barn to feed them there. This will save drawing manure, and the stock may be kept as warm by cutting holes through the stack as if it were kept in the barn. In fact, the stack-fed animals are ikely to go through the winter with more gain at less expense than any

Fining and Firming. Lack of thoroughness in these is perhaps responsible for more poor crops than all other causes over which may has control. Five out of every six farmers stop too soon and call it The soil must be 'good enough." made fine and well compacted for best results to follow. Either alone is not sufficient. The middle of the road is compact, but not in condition for a good seedbed, for cohesion has taken place between the particles of earth, a thing which should not occur in the wheat field. On the other hand, a light, friable soil may plow up perfectly fine like an ash heap, yet will require much harrowing, rolling and tramping before it is right to The soil must be reduced to small particles and these pressed close together when not wet enough to cause them to adhere one to another. Thus the ground will be solid enough so the horses' hoofs will not sink far into it, yet porous enough for the little wheat roots to readily penetrate by pressing close against the soil particles, and the thousands of little pumps will fraw moisture from below, where the "big bore" pumps formed of clods would fail to "suck." Clayey soils plowed sometimes become too hard, too much like the middle of the road, and require to be thoroughly loosened with cultivator or disc before a good seed-bed can be secured. Nothing better for the purpose than a good riding cultivator with plenty of team attached. It pays, as a rule, to put at least as much work on the wheat ground as would be required to raise erop of corn. Of course, some seasons and soils require more work than

Time to Cut Grass for Hay.

No hard and fast rule can be laid down as to the proper time for cutting grass for hay; but it may be safely asserted that grass is nearly always cut at a period when it has lost much of its succulent and nourishing qual ities. That is, it is a common failing with farmers to let their grass get too ripe. The reason for this in most cases is that the heavy pressure of farm work at this season makes it an easy matter for the farmer to be deluded into the belief that a few more days of postponement will not make much difference. Another reason is that the grass in some fields does not mature evenly, and while there may be patches of young green grass, other parts will be turning yellow. Should the whole field be sacrificed for these few patches of green?

Now it is a demonstrated fact that stock and cattle fatten much more quickly on grass or hay that is just prior to the stage of complete maturity. It is the young grass of early spring that makes stock look sleek and fat, and which adds strength and milk to the cows. After "haying time," the stock put to grass rarely make any great gain. A cow in the August pasture is not worth nearly as

much as a cow in a June pasture.

These observations should lead one to cut the grass for hay earlier, even if other pressing farm work must be postponed. The proper time to cut grass is when it reaches its fullest growth, but before the animals fail to relish it. Usually this means that the grass must be cut before it has headed. To many this may seem like inviting waste, for the crop certainly would not weigh as much would not weigh as much per acre; to be easily obtained dry loam of but on the other hand all that is cut dust is an excellent substitute.

is nutriment. It is doubtful if the KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED plants add anything more after this KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED period that is at all beneficial. - Hay-

Commercial Apple Grafting.

Nurserymen never use two-year-old roots for grafting if one-year-old can be obtained. At lifting time all apple seedling roots are assorted into three lots. No. I contains all roots 16 inches long and 3-16 in diameter at collar. No. 2 all broken roots and less than 3-16 diameter that will make one graft. No. 3 all refuse roots. No. 1 will make more grafts per 1000 roots than No. 2, but the last will grow • larger per cent, of those planted for there will be more collar grafts in those made from No. 2 than No. 1, as root and scion will unite better at collar than below.

Double worked trees are hardier than simple root grafts. That is, hardy trees root-grafted and topworked, as for instance Duchess, root grafted in the ordinary manner and then used for a stock upon which to graft a tender variety, as maiden blush. Simple top-working a seedling will not increase hardiness, for only comparatively few seedlings are hardy. Scions should be put away full length as cut from the tree, for there is less liability to become dry. When ready to graft, cut with slope and tongue ready to fit together, from 100 to 300 scions; cut them 5 to 6 inches in length and throw out on the table. Trim all side roots from a root; cut slope and tongue at collar; select a scion as near as possible the same size as the root, crowd them together closely and cut off the root 2 inches in length. Repeat till the root is used up. For tieing use No. 16 tidy cot ton, drop a ball into hot grafting wax A long scion and short root is best for then the joint is well below ground and the scion will throw out more roots. North of 49th parallel 75 per cent. of the seedlings will winterkill the first winter, hence the necessity of baving the scion rooted. - American Agriculturist.

Improving Pastures

If there is any one part of the rarm that is neglected in the summer time when the rush of harvesting takes up most of the time and attention of all, it is the pasture fields. While there may be some little excuse for this or large grain farms, it can hardly be overlooked on a dairy farm, where grass and green pasture are the chief dependencies for success. The improvement of pasture fields is a crying need on many old places. As a rule the roughest and most sterile fields are given over to pastures, and it is not giving a cow a fair show to make her pick up a living on land that would not produce anything else This is often the case, however, and then we blame the cow for not giving more milk. Half the fault against our dairy cows can be traced to improper feeding. Because a cow has a large field or meadow to graze in it does not follow that she ought to give a large flow of milk. A much smaller piece of land would produce much better results if the pasture was rich and

well cared for It is all right to give cows for pasture the roughest and rockiest part of the farm, for naturally one does not select that portion for plowing under other crops. But it is the part of wis dom to bestow a little care upon such fields to improve them each year. A few days labor devoted to the pasture fields every season will surprise the owner in the results five years later First, here are rocks and stones that can gradually be carried off the field and piled up. Clearing the pasture field in this leisurely way will yield its ward some day, when it is found de sirable to cultivate the meadows or billside for orchard or field crops,

Along with this work should that of clearing the land of wild be bushes, brush, roots and weeds. The roots once taken up will kill the bushes and trees for good and so with the weeds. See that they are rooted up and not simply cut off. Noxiour weeds prevent grass plants from growing, and generally they harbor para sites and rusts of grain which may spread to the cultivated fields any day and do a great amount of damage. This work of clearing the pastures foreign growths is very important at this season of the year, when weeds are about ready to produce their seeds. One plant destroyed root and branch now may prevent the growth of 50 next summer. So it is wise to begin at once, for every year that the work is postponed the pasture field degenerates so much more.

While engaged in this work of de struction it might be well to reconstruct, too. Plant a few shade trees in the most convenient places of the field and if necessary for their protection fence them is until they attain a good growth. Years later they will be preciated by both man and beast When the weeds are pretty well rooted out, it will pay to sow the field in the fall with grass seed, spreading it grass. - American Cultivator.

Farm and Garden Notes.

Keep your dust box full of dry dus and keep it where the hens can get at it at will.

Sound, sweet feed, plenty of grit freedom from lice, pure water. These are the requirements to maintain good health in chicks from healthy stock.

Let fowls have free run of the clover field two or three times a week, turn ing them into it during the later part of the day, but never after a rain or in the early morning when the dew is on the grass,

Dry sand has been found the bes material for putting in henhouses, a with that the manure mixes withou caking up, but where such sand is not to be easily obtained dry loam or rose

A DISTRACTED MOTHER.

Attemptes Suiside When Tro of Her Boys Were Poun Drewned in & Ornek

William Linehart. william Linehart, of Coudersport, was strolling along Kettle Creek, near Cross Forks, one day last week, when he discovered a boy's clothes on the bank He guilt a "dog raft" and rowed bank. He guilt a "dog raft" and rowed out into deep water, where he discovered the body of 7-year-old Henry Ritchie, the son of a neighbor, lying at the bottom. Two other suits of clothing were then found and a further search disclosed the bodies of another Ritchie boy, aged 4 years, and that of Harry Goodravies, a playmate, read that the trio went into the creek to bathe, when the mother of the Ritchie batne, when the mother of the Ritchle boys learned of her sons' fate she ran to the creek and threw herself in. She

The following pensions were granted last week: John F. Lamme, Frankfort Springs, Beaver, \$8 to \$10; Daniel VanLoan, Athens, \$14 to \$17; William Milburn, Jr., Bedford, \$24 fo \$30; Samnel Dasbury, Canonsburg, \$5 to \$10; Hannah J. Neish, New Brighton, \$10; Hannah J. Neish, New Brighton, \$10; Hannah J. Neish, New Brighton, \$10; James Swift, Woodcock, Crawford, \$10; Sarrah C. Suders, McConneisburg, \$10; Sarrah C. Suders, McConneisburg, \$10; Sarrah C. Suders, McConneisburg, \$10; James Blair, \$10; Willield S. Rose, Mcadville, \$10; Henry Kitner, New Bloomfield, \$10; James Black, Pittsburg, \$10; Joseph M. Miller, Brockwayville, \$10; Joseph M. Miller, The following pensions were granted J. Cooper, Loretto, \$12; James Riley, Williamsburg, \$8; Charles W. Taft

Williamsburg, \$8; Charles W. Taft. Geneva, \$10.
Andrew Gardner, an aged Tyrons bridegroom who disobeyed an injunction issued to prohibit him from entering into a matrimonial alliance with Miss Sarah Ellen Graffiuz, pending an examination into his mental condition, was fined \$100 and costs by Judge Bell recently for contempt of court. Mr. Gardner and his flances were married in Huntingdon county, after the

Gardner and his flancee were married in Huntingdon county, after the court's injunction had heen served on them. A commission last week adjudged Gardner to be of sound mind and an eligible candidate for matrimonial honors. The injunction has been sued out by Gardner's children. A terrific cyclone swept over Springfield township last Wednesday. At Springfield Center, William Brace, aged 24, was in his barn milking. The building was destroyed and Brace was instantly killed, as were 14 cows. C. M. Comfort and Frederick A. Voorhis, of Mansfield, who were touring the country with an advertising wagon for the Tloga County Fair, sought shelter the Tloga County Fair, sought shelter in the barn of Schuyler Gates, near Springfield Center. The building was blown down and both men were killed. Their horses were also crushed to death. Two fine horses belonging to

death. Two fine horses belonging to Gates also were killed.
William T. Ward, aged about 44, head roller at the Sharon iron works, was killed Tuesday afternoon. He was engaged in straightening a piece of cold sheet iron, when he fell on the edge, striking on his neck. His throat was cut almost from ear to ear and edge, striking on his neck. His throat was cut almost from ear to ear, and his windpipe and jugular vein was severed. He lived just twenty-five minutes. Mr. Ward was president of the borough council and a Republican. He leaves a widow and three children. The westbound Erie mail train on the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad was wrecked a few days ago at North was wrecked a few days ago at North Bend, near Lock Haven, caused by the locomotive jumping the track. En-gineer John M. Butler, of Harriaburg, had both legs cut off and died soon af-

had ooth legs cut off and died soon af-ter. Fireman John Kutz and Bag-gagemaster Devictor, both of Harris-burg, were also slightly injured.

Fire and an explosion of dynamite the other night destroyed the glue and phosphate works of Hyman Ehrhart, on the banks of Conestoga Creek, east of Lancaster. Stored in one of the of Lancaster. Stored in one of buildings was a considerable quantity of dynamite, used for blasting. While the fire was raging this dynamite ex-ploded. No person was injured. Loss,

\$5.000; no insurance.

E. D. Powell, of West Middlesex, has begun proceedings against the borough for damages for unlawfully imprisonment. His cow broke out of the shed and ran loose in the streets. He was arrested and fined \$2, but refused to pay it, whereupon he was locked up pay it, whereupon he was locked up for 48 hours. He says his reputation was damaged several thousand dollars. Voluntary manslaughter was the verdict of the jury at Uniontown, try-

ing Thomas Brownfield for the murder of "Bud" Braddee, grandson of the oldtime mail robber, Dr. Braddee, Braddee was quarrelsome, attacked Brownfield, who is a cripple, and after Brownfield had been kn che'l down, he

shot Braddee.
William J. Williams, aged 18, was accidentally killed while hunting on the mountain near Wilkebarre, the other day. He stood his loaded gun against a tree, and then, unthinkingly, struck the trigger with his foot. The weapon was discharged and the entire load of shot entered his side. He died an hour

Lizzie Russell, a 7-year-old girl, was shot and instantly killed a few days, ago at Scranton. by Mary Moran, 14 years of age. The Moran girl was playing with her father's self-cocking revolver, when it accidentally went off. She was arrested, but was later released on the Coroner's advices released on the Coroner's advice

released on the Coroner's advice.
Greensburg may yet secure the gift
of a library offered by Andrew Carnegle. As the Council refused to accept the conditions inid down, it has
been suggested that the public school
board assume the responsibility of
maintaining the institution, and this
likely will be the result.
Grant Kitt a former clock in the

likely will be the result.

Grant Kitt, a former clerk in the
Juniata shops at Altoona, of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, has been
sent to jall, charged with forging company passes. Albert, alias Kid, Ross, and Samuel March, who were ac-cused as accomplices, have been dis charged.

charged.
Frank L. Wilson has received a letfrank L. Wilson has received a letter written at St. Michaels, Alaska,
which stated that George Bevington
committed suicide August 5. Bevington was a son of the late Capt. Jame Bevington of Freedom and 36 years old For several years he was a rive

A statistician has estimated that an average man of 50 years old worked 6,500 days, has slept 6,000, has amused himself 4,000, has walked 12,000 miles, has been ill 500 days, has partaken 36,000 meals, caten 15,000 pounds of meat and 4,000 pounds of fish, eggs and vegetables, and drank 7,000 gallons of fluid.

To give an alarm when any predetermined temperature is reached a new thermometer has wires inserted in the side of the tube to complete an electric circuit as soon as the mercury rises, the wire being led to a switchboard, which is set at any desired tem-

THE MARKETS. Grain, Flour and Feed. WHEAT-No. 1 red WHEAT—No. 1 red.
No. 2 red.
No. 2 red.
COIN—No. 2 yellow, ear.
No. 2 yellow, sheiled.
Mixed ear.
OATS—No. 2 white
No. 3 white
RVE—No. 1
FLOUII—Winter patents.
Fancy straight winter
Rye flour
HAY—No. 1 timothy.
Clover, No. 1. Clover, No. 1
FEED No. 1 white mid., ton
Brown middlings.
Bran, bulk
STRAW - Wheat. Out. SEEDS Clover, 60 lbs...... Timothy, prime. Dairy Products BUTTER-Eigh creamery..... Ohio creamery
Fancy country roll.....
CHEESE—Ohio, new....
New York, new..... Fraits and Vegetables BEANS—Green, *bu.
POTATOES—White, *bbl....
CABBAGE—Per bbl.
ONIONS—Choice yellow, *V bu. Poultry, Etc. CHICKENS Per pair, smail. . TURKEYS—Per Ib..... EGGS—Pa. and Obio, fresh.... CINCINNATI.

BUTTER Ohio creamery..... PHILADELPHIA.

NEW YORK. FLOUR Patents..... 4 50@ WHEAT-No. 2 red.....

OATS White Western..... BUTTER Creamery.....EGGS State of Penn LIVE STOCK.

Central Stock Yards, Kast Liberty, Pa. CATTLE. HOOS. Heavy 4 10
Roughs and stags 3 40 Medium

TRADE REVIEW

Money Coming Over From Poreign Investors Rise in Wheat Heavy Orders for Irea.

R. G. Dunn & Co.'s weekly review of trade reports as follows for last week: The volume of business is larger than it ever has been. Investors across the water have caught the cue, and their purchases of American bonds and stocks have been heavy for several weeks.

weeks. Wheat has been about le higher in price for spot, with western receipts only about as large as those of last year for the week. No doubt some farmers have learned that it is a poor business to hold back for higher prices, and yet very many are doing it, and so are making inevitable a more disastrous decline in prices after a time. Atlantic exports for the week havebeen 2,325,100 bushels, against 3,243,385 bushels last year, flour included, and Pacific exports, 163,192 bushels, against 713,424 last year. Corn is a shade higher, one estimate promising only 1,750,000,000 bushels.

The cotton year has closed according to the Financial Chronicle, with a business to hold back for higher prices.

to the Financial Chronicle, with a yield of 11,180,960 bales in 1897, of which 7,646,085 were exported, 1,856,090 were consumed in northern mills, 1,227,939 in southern mills, 42,079 were added to northern mill stocks and 98,991 to com mercial stocks. It is but fair to say that the Financial Chronicle makes no calculation of the quantity produced but not marketed, which the New Orleans cotton exchange reckons at \$30,000 bales, presumably including cotton owned by southern mills, but not yet consumed.

The European mill stocks, according to Mr. Ellison, are 770,000, against 398,000 bales a year ago; the American 499,775, against 79,696 bales a year ago; the commercial stocks here and a

the commercial stocks here and a-broad 1.841,000 bales, against \$55,000 a year ago, and other allowances leave on hand for the coming year 3,031,000 bales, about as much as was estimated bales, about as much as was estimated a month ago, and indicate a consumption of 3,083,939 bales in this country, against 2,893,352 bales in the largest previous year. The increase of 44 percent in southern consumption during the past three years, with a decrease of nearly 9.3 per cent in northern, is

the past three years, with a decrease of nearly 9.3 per cent in northern, is significant.

Nobody can guess how great the demand for iron and steel products may be a month hence, but the manufacturer has the rare good sense to wait for the actual orders before hoisting prices. So far the advance has been remarkably moderate, in the average of all finished products only 1.3 per cent from the lowest price this year, while pig iron has risen less than 3 per cent. Orders this week include 10,000 tons rails at Chicago, 5,000 tons pipe at Boston, with 16,000 to 24,000 tons coming at Philadelphia, 10,000 tons plate for a Baltimore shipyard, and heavy orders for bars, rods, and especially sheets, at all markets.

The sales of wool have been only 2.-289,500 pounds at the three chief markets, against 18,010,400 pounds for the same week last year, and 8,312,000 for the same week last year, and 8,312,000 for the same week in 1892. The feeling grows that the prices demanded at the West cannot be maintained, and until wool sells at materially lower prices the manufacturer cannot meet the existing market for goods. Prices for goods do not change, and a considerable amount of the mills will shortly shut down unless the situation improves. In the cotton manufacture there is still a fairly strong demand, with print cloths and staple goods unchanged in price, but the stoppage of some eastern mills continues.

Failures for the first week of September have been in amount of liabilities \$1,111,583, manufacturing \$224.612, and trading \$703,591. Failures for the week have been in the United States against 25 last year, and 18 in Canada against 25 last year, and 18 in Canada against 25 last year.

The Cubans at Santiago have begun to disarm. Two hundred of them came in from their camp at El Cobre the other day, turned their arms over to Gen. Lawton and asked for work. They were given employment on the water front and will be paid in rations.