THE DECADENT.

ng the virile hosts he passed along, mapleuous for an undetermined grace sextexts beauty. In his form and face, s mighty purpose somehow had gone wrong. God's

on his loom he wove a careful song, sensuous threads, a web of wordy

Ince, Wherein the primal passions of the

his own sins, made wonder for the

And gave the finished mesh, crimson

The last consummate touch of studied at those who knew strong passion and keen pain.
Looked through, and through the pattern, and found not
One single great emotion of the heart.
Ella Wheeler Wilcox, in the Century.

Twice Told Tale.

By LOUIS TIDDEMAN.

Mr. Gillingham proposed to me before he left for Australia, when I had just turned seventeen, he being ten years my senior. I went direct to my father, as was my wont at any trouble or perplexity, and told him, my arms about his neck, my head pillowed on his shoulder. For a while he did not speak, then he said fervently; "Thank God!"

That decided me-that the sudden clearing of his haggard, careworn face as he clasped me in a close embrace and spoke in flattering terms of my lover, affirming that he was of all men the one he would have chosen for a con-in-law

"His father is my oldest friend," said he. "Jack is like him, brave as a lion, true as steel and honest as the day. God bless you for the news you have brought, my child; now I shall die happy.

I clung to him in a passion of tears and protested that he should not die. and that God would never be so cruel as to take him from me.

"No, no, not for many years yet, I hope," answered he, returning my casees and comforting me as he alone knew how.

Soon after this Mr. Gillingham left, with the understanding that in three years' time I should go out to him, accompanied by my father. His voice abook as he bade me good-bye, there was even a suspicion of moisture in his eyes; mine were tearless. I was sorry, of course; we had been capital friends all through the summer, but since our engagement there had appeared to be something strained in our relationship.

At seventeen one is not, as a rule, much addicted to self-analysis, but it did occur to me that in choosing a husband a girl should be influenced by other motives than the desire to please a parent, however good and wise that parent may be.

Suppose that when I went into society I should meet some one I liked ever so much better? Nothing of the kind occurred; I returned from every ball I attended quite convinced that Mr. Gillingham was superior to anyone whom I had met.

Meanwhile each mail brought me long, lover-like letters, to which I responded in frank, friendly fashion. It med to me only natural that he should write as he did, for I, for my part, was not-at least so it seemedat all sentimental, and it was contrary sposition

fell back suddenly in a dead faint. He had had a severe illness recently, so he told me later, and had been subject to such attacks since then. But I did not know this at the time, and was terribly frightened.

I remember kneeling at his feet frantically chafing his hands, sick at heart and trembling. At length his eyes opened slowly and rested on me. I think we both knew then how it In my mind, at least, there rewas. mained no shadow of uncertainty.

I knew now what love meant. It was no calm, friendly feeling, but a great, unquenchable passion. Shame-stricken, I fled from his presence, and fought

out my battle alone; the strength of my own feeling was a revelation to me. I had at least sufficient honor to despise myself.

Next day I feigned Illness, and It was not until the voyage came to an end that we met again, and he stood at my side once more, helpful as ever but reserved and distant. It made my heart ache, but sympathy, possessing the rare tact that pierces through conventionality.

"My dear," she said, after we had dined, "you wish to be alone; you are in no mood for talking."

I was about to reply as politeness dictated, but she only smiled and shook her head as she led me in to the cozy library, settled me comfortably in the armchair by the fire and left me. How I blessed her for her kindly consideration. Left to myself I could at least try to think.

I would be true to the promise I had given so many years ago, but I would not deceive the man who leved me-I would tell him all.

So I sat thereinthe dark room and waited till, out of sheer weariness, I fell asleep.

A slight sound awakened me. I rubbed my eyes and peered through the gloom. Surely that was a man seated at the table his head buried in his hands. "Mr. Gillingham," I whispered, "Is

it you or am I still dreaming?"

The vessel had arrived a day earlier than was expected. Mr. Gillingham was not there to meet me, and I was conducted by his friend to the house of his aunt, who had offered to receive me as a guest. She was a model hostess, gentle and full of I knew it was best so; indeed, I mistrusted myself so greatly that I would have shaken him off had it been possible. Unfortunately it was not

"It is I," he replied in a strange, hollow voice. "And so my wife has come to me at last, after six weary years of walting.

The word "wife" stung me into acute self-consciousness,

"Yes, I answered slowly, "I have come, but do not come near me, do not touch me till you have heard all."

He appeared little inclined to do so He might have been a figure carved in stone, still and rigid, cold and hard "Listen," I cried, flinging myself at his feet; "I will be a faithful, loving wife to you who have waited so long and so patiently; but I will not come to you with a lie upon my lips. "I have not been true to you."

"Not true!" he cried, rising to his feet; "not true! Child, do you know what you are saying? Who has come between us?"

"Your friend, and that by no fault of his own. I alone am to blame; he never tried to win my love; he was only kind-oh! so kind and thoughtful."

"So kind and thoughtful!" My words



Cleanliness Necessary.

Too many poultry raisers imagine that if they can see no chunks of dirt in the drinking vessels, they must be It takes very little manure or clean. other filth to contaminate a vessel, and the water it may contain from time to time, with harmful germs that may injure the health of the birds, whether they be young or old. Scald the drinking vessels occasionally and brush them clean enough for a person to eat from. Sunning them afterwards will promote a sanitary condition .-Progressive Farmer.

The Farm Toolhouse.

No building on the farm pays better than a good toolhouse. It should be so convenient of access that there need be no excuse for leaving farm implements exposed to the weather when not in use. Properly cared for, many implements that now last only a few years ought to be serviceable as long as the farmer lives to need them. Besides, a tool that has not been rusted warped and cracked by exposure, will work as well the second and third year of its use as the first. On many farms the tools are so much injured by being left out of doors that after the first season they cost more for repair than they save in labor .- Epitomist.

New Method of Churning Butter.

A new method of churning butter has been patented by a native of Finland, A. H. Borgstrom, says the Pacific Dairy Review, which consists of churning the butter at a temperature in the vicinity of the freezing point. At this temperature the butter will not "break," the claim being, however, that the nature of the cream is so changed that by heating same to a temperature which permits of the formation of butter, the "breaking" takes place almost instantaneously. The advantage claimed for this method is that "overchurning" cannot take place, that less butterfat is left in the buttermilk and that the body of the butter is improved and has greater keeping quality. It is further claimed that the loss of butterfat in churning sweet cream is largely overcome by this method of churning. There is no record given in the advices of any long continued practical tests, but if the method has the merits claimed for it, it will certainly change the methods for buttermaking.

Red Holsteins.

The inquirer who mentions having a red and white Holstein may be interested to learn that I purchased a registered bull from a celebrated herd and have three red and white helfers, and also lost or vealed two more, all from different mothers. I have been told that the original colod of the Holsteins that the original color of the Holsteins white calves are undoubtedly of occasional occurrence. Whatever the original color of the breed, and though it has in the main been kept remarkably free from the admixture of other blood it cannot be denied that there were re-echoed mockingly, but I paid has been some admixture with other breeds. French, German and English breeds are mentioned by Sanders in "The Breeds of Live-Stock" as having been introduced to a limited extent to repair the ravages of war and disease. He says: "Red and white offspring, from black and white ancestry of sev eral generations, are sometimes produced. These have come to be considcovered my tear stained face with ered, in the Netherlands, as of the same original breed, although the evidence of reversion is unmistakable."-Country Gentleman.

every one that falls below the 200egg mark, and every one that produces eggs poorly shaped or off color. Of course, to accomplish anything worth while one must be accurate and be willing to take the time to wait for results. Accurate records must be kept until the laying flock is established. Having then secured a flock of twenty or more hens which have made a continuous record, the matter of increasing the size of the flock will depend upon proper mating. By saving the best laying hens and then the pullets from these hens, and mating with cockerels bred from laying strains, one can within a few years establish a flock that will beat the dung-hill sort four to one. This is work which should be undertaken only by those who have a liking for the business, and who will stick to it long enough to get results. The men who will do it will find it a profitable outlet for every good cockerel they can raise. Farmers are looking for just such stock to breed up their

Husking Corn.

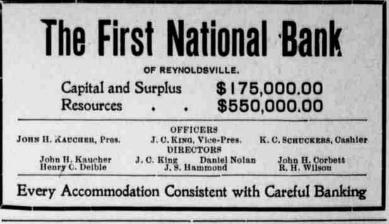
When corn is to be husked direct from the standing stalk, it should be allowed to mature quite thoroughly, particularly if it is of a variety with large ears and large cobs containing a large percentage of moisture, which must determined by examination. The time will also depend largely upon the variety. Early maturing kinds have small ears and small cobs and they can be husked much earlier than latematuring, large-ear varieties, Corn when first placed in the crib contains 13 to 35 or 45 percent of moisture.

In gathering, a common practice in the great corn states is to start through the field marking a "down" row. Husk two rows to the left of the wagon and the one row that is under it. Go round a good sized "land" in this manner The next time have the team straddle the last row next the corn that has not been husked. This will prevent the necessity of picking up a down row each time and will enable the husker to do his work much easier and quick-

The ordinary wagon box will hold from twenty-five to thirty bushels When the corn is exceptionally good, a skilful husker will be able to fill more than one wagon box in half a day. The capacity of a box may be increased by putting on additional side boards. On the right side of the wagon box it is desirable to place one or two extra boards to act as bump boards. The husker will not need to use so much care in throwing in his corn, which will enable him to do more work. A good husker so gauges the distance from the row to the wagon box that it is not necessary for him to look where he throws his ear. All this may not he entirely new to many of the farmers while to a far larger number it will be of interest and value.--Agricultural Epitomist.

Spurs for Poultrymen.

Incubators hatch better when filled





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pecially in England-seem to be

most crazy about them lately." "No," replied her hostess and

toyed with her sixty-karat solltaire

"Tve never got hold of any yet. At

olives?"-Chicago Record-Herald

they anything like these pickled

farm flocks .- Indianapolis Farmer.

tence.

Nevertheless, I was really sorry for him when, as the three years drew to a close, I found myself compelled to white and tell him that, owing to the state of my father's health, it would be Impossible for me to keep my promise.

I felt for him in his loneliness, and grieved for his disappointment, all the ore so because he strove to keep it in the background and to comfort me.

"I can wait," said he, "and will be patient."

He had need for patience, poor feltow, for my dear father lingered on, and two more years passed before death touched him. Then my summons came-a manly, affectionate letter, and withal clear and business-like. I was to take my passage on board the Oriental. A friend of his-his dearest driend-would travel in the same vescel, and would be happy to do all in his power to be of assistance to me on the voyage.

I was glad to go; glad to turn my pack on the familiar scenes amid which my life had been passed. Home was home no longer now that my father was dead. I stood on the deck of the vessel and watched the well-known shores recede from view, straining my eyes to catch the last glimpse of them.

Then, turning suddenly, I confronted Mr. Gillingham's friend. He was very tall, very bronzed, but for all that good to look upon.

I know now, as I look back through the mist of years, that there is such a thing as love at first sight, but in those dars I should have ridiculed such an iden. But Mr. Gillingham's friend was the means of demonstrating its reality. Hour by hour, without misgiving, I sat and listened to his words, at first interrupting him by questions relating to Mr. Gillingham, but only at first.

Day by day he waited on me sedu usly, anticipating my every want. Week by week I learned the silent language of the eyes, the hidden secret of a fleeting smile, and yet remained ignorant of my knowledge. He was so much older than I; besides I was enexged and had been so for nearly six There could be no danger.

Thus I dreamed on until the awaken ing came-came with a fierce flash of in, an agony of self-abasement.

ppened one morning, when it he midst of a pleasant chat that he

no heed.

"It's all over now," I continued; "trust me; I will never see him again. From this time forth I will put him out of heart forever."

"No, no," cried my lover, "not for ever. I hope. Surely there is no need for that "

Then he clasped me in his arms and kisses. It was good to know myself forgiven, good to feel those strong arms about me.

For a space I hid my head upon his shoulder; when I had courage to lift my eyes to his I understood.

"Sweatheart," he said, "it is for me to ask forgiveness, for you to forgive. I am both John Gillingham and his friend. You gave me, your promise so long ago that strange doubts and fears beset me, and I was fain to do by wooing over again. This time, thank God, I have won."-From The New York Evening Journal.

The Sphinx and the Infinite.

I can imagine the most determined atheist looking at the Sphinx and, in a flash, not merely believing, but feeling that he had before him proof of the life of the soul of Khufu beyond the tomb of his pyramid. Always as you return to the Sphinx you wonder at it more, you adore more strangely its repose, you steep yourself more intimately in the aloof peace that seems to emanate from it as light emanates from the sun. And as you look on it at last perhaps you understand the infinite; you understand where is the bourne to which the finite flows with all its greatness, as the great Nile flows from beyond Victoria Nyanza to the sea .- From Robert Hickens's "The Spell of Egypt" in the Century.

In Need of Change.

A small girl recently entered a grocer's shop in the suburbs of Whitechapel and said to the shopman in a shrill, piping voice: "Please, sir, I wants 'arf a pound of butter and penn'orth of cheese and muvver ses she will send a shilling in when farver comes home.

"All right," replied the man. ver wants the change, 'cos she 'as got to put a penny in the gas meter." -London Telegraph.

The Use of Nitrate.

Commercial hay growers figure that used upon a field of timothy in fresh and vigorous condition a top dressing of one hundred pounds of nitrate of soda will increase the crop at least a half ton, worth in the present markets from \$S to \$10. The present cost of nitrate of soda in Boston and New York in small lots is about \$2.50 per hundred. Half a ton of extra hay obtained at this price would seem like good value

The chemical appears to pay better applied to timothy than to other hay, and better when applied to fields laid down within a year or two than to old fields, and best of all when applied to such a field at the very outset of the growing season in spring. At that time soluble nitrates are in scanty supply in the soil, and an extra ration of them pushes the growth ahead raptrly and gets the crop well started before the fields without topdressing have fairly begun to show green. It is not advisable to apply the nitrate the preceding fall, because, being almost as easily dissolved as common salt, it is apt to more or less waste from washing. There may be other crops on which nitrate pays better than on timothy, but on no other crop is it more certain to show definite results from each and every application under the conditions described .- American Cultivator.

The Best Layers.

With a little systematic selection even the common hens can be bred up until most of the flock become prolific layers. It will pay to watch each in dividual hen, paying particular atten "But," continued the child, "muy- tion to the shape and color of her esgs. It will be an easy matter to keep record of those doing the best work, and after the second year cull out

with eggs than if only partly filled.

If incubators or brooders are used, be sure that the burners, wicks, and the oll vessels are thoroughly cleaned before use begins.

Better results will be got by having the eggs used for hatching all of like size, and more particularly when an incubator is used.

Those who use hens for incubating will find it gainful to avail themselves of the method of incubator users in testing out infertile eggs.

No amount of heat will take the place of sunshine for small birds, even if artificial heat may be necessary in the early part of the season.

At the start fill the incubator to its utmost capacity. When the eggs are tested out, it will not be so full; and the fuller it is the better will be the chance for each egg to hatch.

An infertile egg under a hen or in an incubator will not develop the internal heat that a growing chick will, and its touching others eggs that contain growing chicks will have a harmful influence.

The male birds should have plenty of nourishing feed during the breeding season. A specially gallant one that may be more intent on feeding his consorts than on eating what he should have, should be so handled that he will eat enough.

Early chicks avoid many handlcaps that those that are hatched later must bear. Furthermore, if the hatching season extends over a longer period, not all the youngsters of the year will be equally injured by the same period of bad weather .- From the Progressive Farmer.

A Bath in Brittany.

About the time that the sun is setting all the beggars descend toward the sea and spread themselves out on the beach. It is perhaps the only bath that some of them get during the whole year, and judging by the cries of joy with which they divest themselves of their clothes and plunge into the water, they enjoy it all to the full. In some cases they are so anxious to take part in this century-old ceremony of St. Jean da Doigt that they dash into the water without troubling to undress .- Wide World Magazine.

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