

POETRY.
A DOUBT
If I could find a rose without a thorn,
A fragrant blossom with no bitter taste,
A day of sunshine with no spot of cloud,
A world without a dreary desert waste,
Or one bright hope dimmed and serene,
One perfect trust with every fear cast out,
My heart could rest upon the promise sweet,
Laying aside the ever-present doubt.
The shadow dim that falls upon the ring
When wedded palms are clasped in fond
embraces.
The specter of the banquet, and the guest
That silently usurps the highest place;
The presence all unseen, yet ever near;
The minor note to every joyous strain;
The echoing thrill that answers rapture sweet
With something very near akin to pain.
It dims the lustre of the conqueror's sword,
And falls upon the radiance of the cross;
No alchemy can purify the gold
Beyond the clinging of its ashen dross;
It leathens like a mildew on the page
Where weary fingers toil for empty fame,
And on the shining escutcheon of the great,
Beside the greatest there, it writes its name.
—The Aldine for November.

MISCELLANY.
Plain Speaking.
You may have heard the anecdote of the old negro, in Newark, N. J., who went to hear the celebrated Dr. Thorton preach. Upon returning home his master asked—
"Well, Sambo, how did you like the master?"
"I like him fust rate, mas'r; but I don't 'tink he is so berry smart after all."
"Why not?"
"Why, because I could understand chery word he said; and I an't smart in larnin' any way."
This was told to the doctor, who declared that he considered it one of the finest compliments he had ever received. And he then told his friends how he had come to adopt a simple method of speech in his preaching.
One day he overheard two laboring men, in a store, conversing upon the subject of a sermon which he had delivered on the previous Sabbath. They had no doubt that it was good.
"But," said one of them, "you and I, Tom, have not got learning enough to see through the doctor's preaching. Them big words always knock me."
The doctor went home deeply impressed with what he had heard.
Was he doing his duty as a minister to the people, when the very class who most needed instruction from his lips gained only the husks of ambiguity in place of the bread of life?
Upon the table in his study, lay a half-written sermon, in which he intended to give a brief history of the progress of Christianity. He had written of the sweeping down upon Rome of the Pagan hordes of the North, and of the gradual adoption by the savage conquerors of Roman habits and Roman ideas.
The last cause he had written as follows:
"And through this concatenation of events the introduction of Christianity in Northern Europe was brought about. It seemed very plain and simple to him; but how might it seem to others? He called his gardener—an industrious, honest and really intelligent man—to his study.
"Thomas," said he, "can you tell me what a concatenation of events is?"
"Really, sir," stammered the poor man, scratching his head, "I don't exactly know; but I should think it must be something pretty bad!"
The doctor next summoned his house servant.
"Mary, can you tell me what *introduction* means?"
"Mercy! sir," cried the pert and ready-tongued domestic, "how should I know? You never told me to fix anything that way."
The doctor dismissed Mary, and then returned to his manuscript, from which he erased all ambiguous words and phrases, substituting language simple and effective, and easily comprehended by the common understanding.
And from that time he carefully pursued this sensible course, the result of which was that he finally came to preach so that even poor Sambo could listen and understand.

True Friendship.
As regards private social life, I know no happier phase of it than that which allows you to have only a few intimate friends, and which does not compel you to fritter away your hours among a host of acquaintances who have no hearty regard for you—paying a cold visit here, a cold visit there, glad when they are over—receiving these conventional visits in return, and uttering common places the while which are devoid of meaning and have no suspicion of earnestness.
Where you have within hail a few friends between whom and yourself a sincere esteem existed, room is given for earnest feeling to flower; the true heart glow is felt, and you give and receive smiles which are not artificial, and speak and hear words which are good and glad utterances. In time the ties which bind you and your friends grow as strong as ties of blood and kindred, and when a face is missed from the circle you mourn for it with genuine grief and affection.

Emeralds and Pearls.
A Paris letter says: For evening wear pearls and precious stones are alone in vogue. Coral, Roman gold, and other less costly ornaments are no longer worn. The emeralds of the Duchess d'Arco, which she wore at the ball of the Elisee lately (she is the individual who was pointed out to me as a Russian Princess and whose jewelry was recently mentioned) are valued at \$500,000. The Duchess of Medini-Celli possesses a pearl necklace which is a family heirloom. It is composed of twelve or fourteen strings of large and beautiful pearls, and valued at \$400,000. When she wears it the upper string fits around her throat, while the lowest falls below her waist.

A touching obituary. "He knew the value of an editor's time, and never trespassed long upon it." Peace to his ashes.

AGRICULTURAL.
RUBBER OVERSHOES FOR HORSES.
Rubber overshoes for horses are a recent invention, which promises to be a boon to the equine inhabitants of paved cities. The shoe is made and lined in precisely similar manner to the articles of apparel worn by the human race, and, in fact, presents no points of difference save in its shape, and its manufacture of the best quality of india-rubber. It is designed as a substitute for the iron shoe, and as a means of preventing the many maladies to which horses' feet are subject. Horses suffering with cracked or contracted hoof, and similar painful hurts, it is said, are quickly cured by the substitution of the rubber covering for the unyielding metal shoe. The elasticity of the former allows the hoof to remain in its natural shape, while protected from abrasion against pavements by the heavy rubber sole beneath. The device is easily removed from or put on the hoof, and hence, while standing in the stall or turned out to pasture, the horse may be left barefooted. In winter time this covering serves as a protection against illness due to the common practice of mingling salt with the ice and snow in city streets, while the roughened surface of the gum beneath serves to give the animal a foothold in slippery weather. As compared with iron shoes, the cost of the rubber one is about one-third more, and their weight is some 40 per cent. less, while they are very durable. Sixteen sizes are manufactured, so that accurate fits may be obtained.

TAKE CARE OF THE TOOLS.—The tools employed upon the farm are costly, and should receive the same care which is bestowed upon other valuable property. There is manifested by many farmers a kind of chronic neglect in respect to the care of the implements of husbandry. Complicated machines like those used for mowing, raking, threshing, etc., with their iron wheels, levers and cams, are allowed to rust and decay, so that in a couple of seasons they are unworkable. Some farmers become torpid, frozen up, in winter, and appear to have no active blood in their veins. They will not take up a rake or a neglected hoe in winter and put it under cover. We have seen ladders, forks, harrows, shovels, etc., peeping out from under the snow in winter, in time of thaw, and have asked why they were not cared for. Sometimes the reply has been, "We will attend to it to-morrow," but that to-morrow never came. There must be a society organized for "protecting farmers' tools," and the officers must have full power to forcibly seize and put away all neglected implements, no matter upon whose premises they are found.

WOODHUCK OIL.—Perhaps some farmers who are troubled by that little pest, the woodhuck, are not aware that the oil of this animal is excellent for oiling harness, boots, shoes, and all kinds of leather requiring a simple oil. Several observing, practical farmers with whom I am well acquainted, say it is equal to or better than neat's foot oil for this purpose; and I know of my own experience that it makes leather very soft and pliable. It is also useful for many other purposes instead of lard oil, which it very much resembles. There is no doubt but that it would sell for a very fair price if its good qualities were generally known. The woodhuck is very fat late in the fall, and a good sized one will yield a full quart of oil. Sometimes the oil is obtained by baking the whole animal, but a still better way is to take off the fat, as free from bloody and fleshy parts as possible, cut it into small pieces and try it over a hot fire; then strain, bottle up and keep in a cool place.

GRUBS AND TICKS.—A correspondent writes: Wood ashes, sprinkled upon the backs of beef cattle that are to be kept late, will kill the grubs, so that they will not injure the meat at all. Put it on two or three times in the first half of January, two good handfuls at a time; when the hair is a little damp, is the best time. When one skins the animal, he may see where the grubs were, but the meat will be of the natural color, and all right. I also know that sulphur fed to sheep will drive away the ticks, and keep them away. A tablespoonful of sulphur to two quarts of salt, well mixed, is about the right proportion; and it should be given about twice a month, while the sheep run to grass. I have tried it for more than twenty years, on flocks of from 100 to 500 in number, and the sheep have been almost entirely free from ticks during the whole time.

EGGS IN WINTER.—To have plenty of eggs in winter, the fowls must have warm roosting and nesting places, warm food, if possible, with some kind of animal food at least once a day, and water to drink at will; gravel and lime must be always at hand, and the poultry house must be kept scrupulously clean, and the fowls out of the way of vermin and free from lice.
Lice may be destroyed by the application of lard or sweet oil in which carbolic acid has been mixed at the rate of one part of acid to one hundred of oil or lard. For poultry, the mixture should be rubbed beneath the wings and on the top of the head, except in the case of sitting hens, which should never have grease of any kind applied to them, if the eggs are to be hatched.

TO SAVE SWARMS.—When they show the first symptoms of swarming, stop up some of the outlets to the hive, so as to force them to a considerable time in coming out. The swarm being made up in part of the young bees, many of them unable to fly well, and as the swarm can do nothing until all are out flying in the air, by prolonging their exit, the feeble ones become tired, and, finding their plans frustrated, they alight to arrange their journey.

AN OLD DUTCH PROVERB SAYS: The plowman must go up and down, and whatever else may be done there is no other but this long way to do the work well.

SCIENTIFIC.
THE TULIP TREE.—This noble tree deserves a place on every lawn, as it seldom fails to develop itself into a stately specimen in any good, deep, well drained soil. In habit of growth, it closely resembles the common maple, but its conspicuous orange-tinted blossoms and scaly fruits at once suggest its near affinity to magnolias, to which it belongs. The flowers are not unlike those of a tulip, and hence the name by which it is most generally known. The broadly expanded leaves, instead of being palmate as in the plane, are irregularly four-lobed, and somewhat resemble a saddle in conformation; and it is sometimes called in the vernacular the saddle tree, from this peculiarity. The flowers are profusely borne during the summer months; and although not strikingly ornamental on the tree on account of their being somewhat hidden amid the ample foliage, when cut and arranged in a vase with the foliage that naturally belong to them, they have a distinct and striking appearance. This tree is from 100 to 150 feet in height, but in Europe it rarely exceeds 70 or 80 feet. In the old arboretum at Chiswick, England, there used to be two specimens of this fine tree, one having much larger and brighter colored flowers than the other; and, doubtless, other varieties of it exist where plants are raised from seeds. All through the summer the foliage is of a fresh, pale green; and in the autumn, it dies off a bright golden yellow. Striking effect might, therefore, be obtained by grouping it with *quercus coccinea* or the purple-leaved beech. In addition to its ornamental properties, its distinct and noble port commending it at once to the notice of intending planters, it is valuable as a timber tree, the wood being firm in texture and capable of taking a fine polish.

THE FRENCH METER.—Sir Edmund Beckett is a true Englishman, and does not love the French measure. He says: "The polar axis is estimated at 7,899 miles, or 500 millions of inches a thousandth part longer than our present standard inch, which probably only came by accident to be what it was when the standard was taken, and might just as well be a thousandth more. True the other European nations have inches too, and some of them are rather longer than ours. The French meter, 39.371 inches, is the worst measure in the world, because it is inconsistent with any natural one; whereas our yard is the long stride of a man of good height, and the natural length of his walking stick, and half his height or half the stretch of his arms; and the meter is not even what it pretends to be, the 40 millionth of a meridian of the earth, for the measure taken was erroneous; and if it were, such a standard is of no more real value than the distance of the moon. Yet there are people who have engaged in the crusade of trying to force on us this bad, erroneous, arbitrary, and revolutionary measure of a nation which tried also to abolish the week and make a new one of ten days, and whose language is declining over the world, while ours already prevails over more regions of the world than any other, and is evidently destined to advance more and more."
Sir Edward, we think, is about right. The good old yard stick is a better measure than the meter.

THE CHAMELEON'S CHANGES OF COLOR.—THEIR CAUSE.—A paper was recently read before the Society of Biology, of Paris, by Mr. Paul Bert, upon the causes which produce the changes of color in the chameleon. These changes do not run through quite so wide a range of tints as is assumed by the disputatious travelers in Arabia in the well-known fable. They vary from a deep bottle-green, through a bright pea-green, up to a very lively yellow. The cause producing them is purely nervous. This has been fully proved by various experiments in vivisection.
The mechanism is thus described: Beneath the skin of the animal there are found all over its surface vesicles charged with a coloring fluid, which, when withdrawn into them, leaves the epidermis and the tissue immediately beneath to exhibit their natural color, which is bright yellow. These vesicles, however, communicate with a network of minute ducts intersecting and interlacing by a myriad of ramifications immediately beneath the transparent epidermis, and when the coloring liquid is injected into these the effect is to produce a change of color in the animal, the intensity of which depends on the degree to which they are distended. The nerves act directly on the vesicles. When these contract the fluid is expelled; when they expand it is reabsorbed.

A NEW VARNISH FOR METAL WORK.—A late Italian patent contains the following recipe for a varnish for protecting metal work: A paste is made of finely pulverized quartz, carbonate of potash, or oxide of lead and water according to the color required. A thin coat of this is applied with a brush to the object, which is then placed in a muffle, and heated to 1,450° Fahr. The articles emerge covered with a sort of polished glass, which resists blows and which does not split or scale off, while it serves perfectly to protect the metal against oxidation.

CURE FOR CATARRH.—A medical authority asserts that the severest catarrh could be removed in about ten hours by a mixture of carbolic acid, 10 drops, tincture of iodine and chloroform, each 7.5 drops. A few drops of the mixture should be heated over a spirit lamp in a test tube, the mouth of which should be applied to the nostrils as volatilization is effected. The operation should be repeated in about two minutes, when, after the patient sneezes a number of times, the troublesome symptoms rapidly disappear.

ONE HORSE POWER is required for each bushel of winter wheat ground each hour.
A well tempered bar spring will lose much of its elastic strength by filing off a very thin scale from the surface.

DOMESTIC.
DEATH IN THE SIRUP JUG.—Probably there are very few articles of daily consumption which are not adulterated in a more or less vile manner. One of the most scoundrel like impositions that unscrupulous rascals practice upon a long suffering public is the scandalous compound sold as sugar sirup. It is asserted that nearly fifty per cent. of the article sold under the seductive names of golden sirup, silver drops, etc., is a rank poison, formed by the action of sulphuric acid upon some of the substances containing the essential of wood fibre. The quantity of sulphuric acid used to form sugar by this process is so great that it cannot be thoroughly extracted enough from the product. It leaves to be dangerous even to the stomachs of robust men—excessively so to the more delicate organizations of children, who use far more of the article than grown persons.
Since public attention has been called to this rascality, many instances have come to light of mysterious sickness which disappeared on the use of this breakfast dainty being discontinued. Severe burning pains at the stomach, and racking headaches are among the lighter symptoms of sirup poisoning. A case is mentioned where the cork in a keg of sirup sent for the use of a lumberman's camp was found to be nearly eaten away. Fancy a vile drug which will corrode cork, gnawing away at the coat of one's stomach. We will in future worry down our buckwheat cakes without the adventitious aid of sweetening, unless sufficient guarantees of the character of the article be furnished with it.
Fortunately the detection of the pernicious stuff is easy. A small quantity of muriate or nitrate of baryta, mixed with water, make a clear solution. If to this be added a small quantity of sulphuric acid a white precipitate is formed, which is insoluble in water. Tannin also gives a black precipitate, unless the acid has been neutralized by albumen.
If any of our readers have reason for looking upon their mutual sirup with suspicion, let them at once take a sample to a chemist and have it analyzed. If found to be dangerous, let the makers and retailers be prosecuted with the same vigor that wholesale murderers would meet with.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE.—On our personal appearance and habits much of our success in life depends. There have been many instances where the soul, shining through a maimed or deformed body, has conquered the adverse circumstances. This is far easier to do than to overcome an offensive or disagreeable trick of behavior; for society will accord its pity and sympathy to natural defects, but for acquired ones it only reserves its disgust.
Every reader will recall to mind some person toward whom he or she has felt a repugnance almost unendurable, merely from an offensive habit such as a one has formed—sometimes a mere turn of the lip, a cast of the eye, or a peculiar inflection of the voice. Often a practice has been formed of clearing the throat, or spitting profusely about, or picking the ears, or some other vulgar habit. These things will create a distaste for such persons in a fastidious mind, and deny it as we may, or call it "squeamish," or "silly," we are all of us more or less fastidious.
It is the duty of every person to make himself agreeable to others. Most of those peculiarities of manner which create aversion are spontaneous in their origin, but become so habitual that we are unconscious of them. Many of them were formed in childhood, when habits are easily acquired, which are not easily removed in after years. While we cannot like everybody or be liked by everybody in return, still we can take especial care that we do not make ourselves personally offensive by habits and ways that shock the delicate fastidiousness of those around us.

A SMALL POX REMEDY.—The following is said to be a certain cure for small pox. One man speaking of it says: It is as uplifting as fate, and conquers in every instance. It is harmless when taken by a well person. It will also cure scarlet fever. Here is the receipt as I have used it, and cured my children of the scarlet fever. Here it is: I have used it to cure small pox; when learned physicians said the patient must die, it cured: Sulphate of zinc, one grain; gu glove (digitalis), one grain; half a teaspoonful of sugar; mix with two tablespoonfuls of water. When thoroughly mixed, add four ounces of water. Take a spoonful every hour. Either disease will disappear in twelve hours. For a child, smaller doses, according to age. If counties would compel their physicians to use this, there would be no need of pest houses. If you value advice and experience, use this for that terrible disease.

"WHAT DO YOU CALL THAT?" indignantly asked a customer at a cheap restaurant, pointing at an object that he had discovered in his plate of hash.
"Wristband, with sleeve-button attached, sir," said the waiter, briskly.
"Well, do you consider that a proper thing for a man to find in his hash?" asked the customer, in wrath. "Good gracious!" cried the waiter, "would you expect to find a ten-dollar umbrella in a fifteen cent plate of hash?"

TALKING AT TABLE.—Is it proper to talk at table? By all means. We are aware that some few consider it proper to observe perfect silence while at table. The table is the very place to talk, and the meal hours should be among the pleasantest of the day. Don't talk business and discuss what work shall be done, chat. This should not prolong the meal inconveniently, but there should be enough of it to prevent the common custom of rapid eating.

A LITTLE GIRL braids the hair of one who sat in front of her, instead of studying, when the teacher remarks: "Home is the place for arranging the hair, not here. What would you think to see me braiding my hair in school?" Presently Susan's hand is raised, and the teacher, supposing she wishes to ask some question about the lesson, nods, when she hears the following: "Mary says your hair is false, and you wouldn't dare to do it here!"

HUMOROUS.
HOW TO CARRY AN OX TO MARKET.—This from a correspondent at Riviere du Loup, Canada:
When the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada was completed, in 1860, many of the farmers had never heard of, much less seen, a railway, but it soon got reported around that passengers could travel by it, and even cattle. A backwoodsman who was indebted to a country merchant was pushed by the latter for payment of the amount due, and the only means of liquidating the debt was by taking a fat ox to the Quebec market. For this purpose he tied his ox to the back of his cart, and drove to the railway station, a distance of nine miles. On surveying the train and seeing an iron railing around the platform of the hind car, he concluded that was the place to tie his ox, which he accordingly did, taking a place in a second-class car himself. Presently the train began to move off slowly. The speed increased; quicker and quicker it went. The poor man got very fidgety, the speed still increasing, until large drops of sweat became visible on his brow. By this time the conductor had reached his car to collect the tickets. Nearly out of breath, the man ran to him, exclaiming,
"My dear conductor, my ox will never be able to keep up to this pace; it is not possible."
"Your ox! Keep up to this pace! What do you mean? I don't understand you. Have you oxen on board?"
"Not on board, of course. I tied him to the railing of the hind car."
"You tied your ox to the railing of the hind car? Who told you to do so?"
"No one; but that is the way we always do in the country."
Of course the conductor could not stop his train before reaching the next station, when, needless to say, on looking for the ox, they found attached to the rope a pair of horns, with a small portion of the neck.
Mr. Bergh could scarcely call this cruelty to animals, as it was not intended.

A CLEVERMAN IN A QUANDARY.—The Saratogian has the following: "Come in here, you black rascal!" That is what the young lady said. The young lady, you see, was closing the window blinds at the twilight hour, and seeing her little black dog sitting out on the stoop wagging his tail, and wistfully looking up at her, her heart was moved with an impulse of affection toward her pet canine, shivering in the cold and wagging out his mute appeal. So she hastened to the door, and throwing it open, gave vent to the loving expression we have quoted—"Come in here, you black rascal!" So far as the dog was concerned he seemed to understand the terms of endearment addressed him, but when the young lady's pastor, dressed all in black from top to toe, stepped forward from the shady side of the doorway he wore a curious expression on his countenance. The young lady looked at the reverend gentleman and blushed. The dog wagged his tail as if willing to divide the honors. We don't know exactly how it came out. But report has it that the good man regarded doubtfully the ebony beast, glanced at his own broadcloth, concluded it was all right, and accepted the embarrassed young lady's declaration that "I—I—meant the other—the other—come in and see me!"

GEN. MACQUARIE, by a distribution of seeds and implements, attempted to induce the natives of New South Wales to cultivate the ground. Among the packets of seeds were some which contained fish-hooks; these, together with the seeds, were given by the Governor to the sable monarch, King Bungaree. Some time after, the Governor inquired of him whether the seed had yet come up. "Oh, berry well," exclaimed Bungaree; "they all come up berry well, except dem fishhooks, dem no come up yet."

BUSINESS IS DULL in New Jersey. Recently a man went into a paint store, and remarked in a low-spirited way, "Putty," and darted out. The proprietor rushed after him. "What's that you said?" he demanded. "I thought you kept putty for sale," said the man. "So we do," replied the proprietor; "come back here." "I wasn't going to lose that ten cents," he remarked, as the man went away with two pounds.

A GENTLEMAN friend had two canaries and has named them "Wheeler" and "Wilson." His reason for these appellations is that neither of them is a "Singer."

"SECRETS," says Josh Billings, "is a bad investment. If you pass it, you lose the principal; and if you keep it you lose the interest."

WILL the young man of the period be good? Will he out off several yards of his new overcoat and give them to the poor?

WHY is a doctor better taken care of than his patients?—Because when he goes to bed, somebody is sure to rap him up.

WHY does a butcher stick splinters of wood into his meat?—To s, kewer it for his customers.

THE proper salutation when you meet a writing master is, "How do you flourish?"

AN! glorious weather this," say the doctor; "splendid run broken legs lately."

"FAITH and reason are close allies; and so are infidelity and foolishness."

A GENTLEMAN caught cold by kissing a lady's snowy brow.

YOUTH'S COLUMN.
What is the Use?
What is the use of trimming a lamp if you don't intend to light it?
What is the use of grappling a wrong if you never intend to right it?
What is the use of removing your hat, if you don't intend to wear it?
What is the use of wooing a maid, if you never intend to marry?
What is the use of buying a coat, if you do not intend to wear it?
What is the use of a house for two, if you never intend to share it?
What is the use of gathering gold, if you do not intend to keep it?
What is the use of planting a field, if you never intend to reap it?
What is the use of buying a book, if you do not intend to read it?
What is the use of a cradle to you, if you never expect to use it?

SEEING MOTHER.—A lady was riding one day in her carriage, among the mountains, when they came upon an old woman, with a funny little hood on her head and a staff in her hand, walking all alone. She was neat and clean, and her skin was soft and delicate, but her back was bent and she was barefoot. The lady saw she was shoeless, and stopped the carriage. "Here is some money," said the lady in a tender tone. "What for?" said the woman, looking up pleasantly.
"To buy shoes for your feet. Do you not want a pair of shoes?"
The woman laughed a little low laugh which seemed to come from a heart filled with simple, happy thoughts.
"I s'pose I do," said the woman, "but I never didn't think of anybody's giving them to me."
"Take this bill, please, and buy you a pair," said the lady.
"God bless and reward you!" answered the woman, heartily.

The carriage drove on, and the lady sank back on the seat with tears in her eyes. "Oh," said she, "I thought I saw my own mother in that dear old lady. She had just such a sweet face and pleasant voice. You don't know how I felt when I thought of my mother, old and feeble, walking with bare feet over this rough, rocky road."
If we all had fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, in the poor, the cold, and the hungry, what a world this would soon be.

THE DORMOUSE.—The squirrel has a distant relative, a kind of a third cousin once removed, well known under the title Dormouse, and often seen in cages, but not very frequently in a wild state. This little creature is also one of the hibernators, and has its warm nest in a thick bush, much as a squirrel has its domicile in a tree, where it sleeps its time away throughout the Winter.

Like the squirrel, too, it has its store of food, not gathered into the earth, but tucked away into sundry nooks and crannies in the neighborhood. The amount of food which the dormouse takes during the Winter, and the frequency of its awakening, depends almost entirely on the severity or mildness of the season.
In a very sharp Winter the drowsy creature wakes but seldom, and very little of its store is consumed, and indeed, even if the season should be mild the inroads on the larder are but few. The provisions are not gathered so much for the Winter as for the first few weeks of Spring, when the animal has at last shaken off its long Wintry sleep, and returns to its own lively habits, nature not yet having supplied it with a sufficiency of food whereon to live.

OUR BOY'S OWL.—Some time since, a little boy, while at play in an orchard, found a small owl which was disabled so that it could not fly. He brought it carefully home, placed it in a large cage, gave it plenty of water, and fed it on various kinds of food, but principally meat, of which it was very fond. The owl was not much larger than a pigeon, and of a yellowish-white color, with wings of brown feathers round the eyes. The beak seemed hardly large enough to admit a small cherry, yet when a dead mouse was given him, he swallowed it whole without apparent effort. "I had often heard the saying, 'He looks as wise as an owl,' but never realized its truth before. He would fix his large, round eyes on me with a steady, earnest glance, which seemed to reveal my inmost thoughts, and would wink now and then, in a most knowing manner. He liked very much to have his head scratched with the back of a case-knife, and it was a comical sight to see him enjoying the luxury. He would sit on the perch in his cage, with his big, round head bent forward to get the full benefit of the scratching, and would slowly open and close his eyes, as a cat does when you gently stroke her head. I paid him several visits and became much interested in him.

FIGHTING FISH.—In the East Indies a species of fish is found known as the "fighting fish," and used by the natives for sport much after the manner of game cocks. It is said that when two are placed in separate glass vessels and brought near together, they will at first watch each other closely from a distance, then, changing color and becoming almost black, the gill covers are opened out and form a sort of collar around the head, giving the fish a most curious appearance. The tail and fins become phosphorescent in color, as well as the eyes, and are tinted with the most beautiful hues. The fish then try to get at each other, but are prevented by the glass. When they become sufficiently angry they are put into one vessel, and fight furiously, striking one another rapidly with their tails and fins until one or the other is conquered, when he turns a sort of grayish white color and uses every effort to get out of the way of his conqueror, often jumping out of the water in his endeavors to escape.

I would rather be the author of one original thought than conqueror of a hundred battles. Yet moral excellence is so much superior to intellectual, that I ought to esteem one virtue more valuable than a hundred original thoughts.
—W. B. Chilton.

An apparatus has been invented by which tunes can be played by telegraph. It is called the telephone, and when put in operation all the operators along the line can hear the tunes distinctly.