The Blacksmith.

Clang, clang, clang, is the blacksmith's song,
And the sparks fall far and wide,
As the hammer descends, with his arm so strong
On the anvil at his side.
When the dusty bellows wheeze and blow,
When the fire burns bright and clear,
And the metal's sheat in the red-hot glow,
When again the song we hear.

Of my childhood days I remember well
The cottage old at the foot of the hill,
With its gabled roof and eaves so brown,
Always so lonely and still.
I remember well its owner, too,
With his silvery hair and wrinkled face,
Whose nose was built on so spare a plan
His spectacles hardly could keep their place.

The smithy stood just across the road,
And o'er it the shade of a larch-tree swung,
Where, thro' the long, bright summer-time,
The robins builded their nests and sung.
While a brooklet near sang its tinkling tune
To the buttercups nodding o'er its brim,
And the anvil rang out its merry chime
'Neath the blows of the blacksmith, old and grim.

As plainly as ever I see him now
By his heap of old iron close by the door;
There are plenty of shoes on the pegs in a row,
And the rafters with cobwebs are festooned o'er.
He could clinch an argument as well as a nail;
If *blows* came in question, no craven was he;
Whether blows or words, 'twas all the same—
He could hammer them in quite handily.

Rather a learned chap, you see:
Taught many a school in his youthful day,
Wrote a short poem once on a time,
And went through Dart—in the part of a day.
A sort of musical character, too,
Tho' not especially good on a *swell*—
He used to whistle quite frequently,
But what the tune *was* we never could tell.

So he whistled and sang, till one quiet day,
A nameless shadow crept thro' the door—
Then bright grew the face with its crown of gray,
And the spirit was free for evermore.
The anvil is wrapt in oblivion's gloom,
And passed away are the tree and bird;
Where the smithy stood is the sweet clover bloom,
And only the song of the brooklet is heard.

FARM AND GARDEN.

The Care of Trees, Bedding out Plants and Chickens.

AN ECONOMICAL PAINT.

(Compiled by a Practical Agriculturist.)

Tomato Culture and Sunflowers.

I dug out in the early springtime as many flat turnips as were needed, and having filled the cavity with earth, planted two or three tomato seeds in it, selecting the best plants, when they were two or three inches high, to remain, and pulling up the others; and when it was time to set in the garden, placed the turnip, with its contents undisturbed, in a hole deep enough to cover it two or three inches. Setting out in this way, there is no cutting away of roots, and need of little water, as the plant has not been in the least disturbed, especially if accustomed to the air out-of-doors for a week or two before being set in the garden. I have started tomatoes so early that the plants were in blossom several days before being set out, not being at all retarded or checked in growth thereby. Cucumbers, melons, etc., started in the same way, I have had in bloom when set out, with the same result. After being put in the ground the turnip soon decays, furnishing a little food for the plant. If the turnips are to be kept long before setting out, it will be well to put them in boxes, filling the interstices with moss, sand or earth, kept moist. As too long exposure to the hot air of a warm room will cause them to wilt, the earth must be kept moist, whether the turnip is in or out of a box. Instead of going to the trouble of procuring, sharpening and setting stakes, and pulling and taking care of them at the end of the season, I started sunflower seeds in the same way as described. To prevent too much shade I cut off the leaves of the sunflowers as far above the tomato plant as is necessary to give it all the air and sunlight desirable. The Russian sunflower, because of its very tall growth, is the best for this purpose. The sunflower makes the best and most profitable of stakes, because it is so easily obtained—no loosening in the ground or breaking of stakes when loaded with fruit; and the seeds of the flower, which are better than corn for poultry, abundantly pay for all the time and labor in caring for them. The leaves of the sunflowers will be greedily eaten by cows or pigs, and are said to be much better than green corn fodder. The Russian sunflowers also make an excelllent bean pole, though it is not necessary to start them so early as for tomatoes, as a growth of a foot and-a-half by the first of June (bean planting time) is all that is needed.

Exercise Horses Daily.

Horses that are to do heavy work at the plough in spring should not be permitted to stand idle in the stable for weeks, or perhaps months, before the soil is ready for cultivation, but should have a shorter or longer period of exercise every day. There is considerable danger, especially at the breaking up of the sleighing, of leaving the horses idle in the stable without the usual care and attention which they ordinarily receive when at work. This ought not to be done, as the horse is thus rendered less able to endure heavy work when the warm days come.

Grafting Wax.

Last spring, after considerable trouble, this recipe was obtained for grafting wax, and as it has proved satisfactory, it is given for the benefit of others: Take 1 lb. of rosin, ½ lb. of beeswax, and a little less than ½ lb. of tallow. Melt together in a small iron kettle, and stir thoroughly that the ingredients may be well mixed. Pour into a dish of cold water, and when cool, break into three or four pieces, and pull like molasses candy until white and fine-grained. When the whole is properly worked, divide into eight pieces, form into rolls six inches long, and wrap in oiled paper. To clean the kettle, rub it while yet hot with a teaspoonful of lard or tallow, and wash out with soap and warm water; repeat this, and rinse, and it will be as clean as ever.—*O. A. O.*

Economical Paint.

A paint for floors, which economizes the use of oil colors and varnish, is described at much length in the *Builder*, as a recent German invention. For flooring, two and one-eighth ounces of good, clear, joiners' glue is soaked over night in cold water, and, when dissolved, is added, while being stirred, to thickish milk of lime, heated to the boiling point, and prepared from one pound of quick lime. Into boiling lime is poured—the stirring being continued—as much linseed oil as becomes united, by means of saponification, with the lime, and when the oil no longer mixes there is no more poured in. If there happens to be too much oil added, it must be combined by the addition of some fresh lime paste—about half a pound of oil for the quantity of lime just named. After this white, thickish foundation paint has cooled, a color is added which is not affected by lime, and, in case of need, the paint is diluted with water, or by the addition of a mixture of lime water with some linseed oil. The substance penetrates into the wood and renders it water-resisting.

The Nature of Cream.

The behavior of cream by the addition of water is a subject that should be well understood by the owners of creameries. It is known that the addition of cold water to the milk causes the cream to rise with greater rapidity than it would otherwise do. But the effect of adding water to the cream itself is not so well understood. Cream is lighter than milk, and water is also lighter than milk. There is very little difference between the specific gravities of cream and water. Indeed very poor cream may be of precisely the same specific gravity as water, while very rich cream will be lighter. Cream varies very much in its character. Of six samples the proportion of water contained have been found to vary from 50 to 72.25 per cent., while the proportions of actual fat have varied from 19 to 43 9 per cent. It is a fact that cream is only exceedingly rich milk, and the milk of the cream has precisely the specific gravity of skimmed milk that is free from fat, which is 1.035. The fat of milk has a specific gravity of .9, so that it is quite easy to calculate how much fat there is required to make the cream weigh precisely the same as water. Then water and cream thoroughly mixed would not separate, and a certain proportion of water may be mixed with cream, and if the water is properly thickened and colored, as it is sometimes, with starch and yellow matter, nothing but a chemical analysis would detect the adulteration. As a practical illustration of the possibility of dishonest treatment of cream we might refer to an experiment made by Prof. Muncy at the Iowa College, in which eight parts of water were added to two parts of cream, and two and a quarter hours after the cream which separated was doubled in quantity, while in 12 hours the cream still showed an increased bulk of one part in 20, or 5 per cent. These facts show that the cream gauge and the milk can are neither to be depended upon as a test of cream, while the natural variation in quality, which is so large, must necessarily operate to the disadvantage of those whose cream is richest in fat, in favor of those whose cream is poor.

Other Farm Notes.

Brittany cattle are small, silky-skinned, docile and gentle animals, giving as rich milk as one can well desire. Brittany butter, delicate and superior, of which thousands of tons are annually imported into England, is produced from the milk of these cows. They are also naturally hardy, thriving on coarse food, and another important characteristic is their freedom from disease incident to cattle generally.

Chickens when first hatched should not be hurried out of the setting nest. For twenty-four hours, at least, from the time the earliest commence to show themselves it is better to leave them under or with the hen mother. They need no food for from a day to a day and a half usually. When they get strong enough to venture from beneath their mother's wings it is time to move the brood.

An agricultural writer has found salt sprinkled on a manure heap an excellent application both for summer and winter. He says: In warm weather it attracts moisture and keeps the manure from fire-fanging or burning from excessive fermentation. In winter it keeps the heap from freezing solid, and at any season it makes the manure more soluble.

Bedding-plants may be started in boxes kept in the kitchen to better advantage than in a hot-bed. Boxes that have contained raisins are well adapted to the purpose. They should be nearly filled with old manure and soil that is free from foul seeds, and fastened to a window-sill where the light will reach them. After the plants have made a good growth the boxes may be taken out of doors during warm days. By that means the plants become gradually fitted for exposure.

Prof. Shelton, of the Kansas Agricultural College, says a fortune awaits the man who invents a good, cheap farm-mill. But he adds that it must do more than "merely crack the grain, and break cobs into inch square chunks." He has taken pains to get the opinions of a large number of stock raisers who use much ground and crushed feed, and "all agree that the machines now in vogue are awkward, unreliable and easily broken."

Care in the setting of trees is profitably employed. Do not hustle in the tree as quickly as possible, thinking that the sooner its roots are covered the better. Dig a good-sized hole, and before putting in the tree spade up the bottom of the hole as deeply as possible. On this well-pulverized bottom the tree takes root quickly. Sift in fine earth about the roots, and when the hole is filled pack the earth tightly about the tree. If in a dry place put a mulch of straw or old horse manure, well supplied with litter, about the tree. In dry weather the mulch may be raised, a pail of water applied, the mulch replaced, and its effect will last nearly a month.

The Deadly Fly.

According to an Italian scientist the fly, which we have been taught to regard as a scavenger of the air, instead of performing that useful operation is not only an unmitigated annoyance, which he has always been, but is one of the most active of winged agents in the diffusion of infectious maladies, epidemics, and even parasitic diseases. Dr. Grassi has shown by microscopical examination of "fly-spots" the presence of eggs of a human parasite, which the flies had transferred from a place some distance away, where the experimentalist had placed them

In Salt Lake City the sidewalks are 20 feet wide. It is not stated whether they are built so as to allow a Mormon to take all his wives out walking at once, or to relieve a Salt Lake citizen from the necessity of taking the middle of the road when he goes home without the aid of a policeman.

WOMEN'S WORK AND WAGES.

The Position of the Fair Sex as it is, and as it Might be.

HOW TO SET ABOUT EARNING A LIVING.

The question of women's work and wages is not to be settled in our generation. Every day's newspaper contains some complaint of inadequate pay or unfair treatment on the part of employers, with an implied appeal to the humane public to right the wrong. No doubt there is a certain foundation for the protest. Women are the weaker side in the controversy, and the weakest must go to the wall. But no close observer of the feminine habit of mind can fail to have been struck with a certain air of condescension which most women maintain toward their work, and which explains, in a degree at least, their discontent. Men take up their business, be it hard or easy, pleasant or hateful, with a matter-of-course determination to accomplish it which ignores its quality altogether. Women sigh over theirs,ament the hard necessity which brings them to it, patronize it as not quite worthy their attention, and are always looking over the edge of it toward a free beyond.

Of course this mental attitude is most noticeable in those women who have not been trained to work, and whose work is therefore least valuable. Of course, also, it must and does make them thoroughly uncomfortable, because it keeps them continually self-conscious. If there be an infallible recipe for human misery of a mean and pitiable sort, it is probably to be found in the habitual contrasting of our worldly fortunes with our merits, and with the better luck of other people not more deserving. Every year more and more young women from intelligent and refined circles must earn their living. That is the condition of the time, which cannot be gainsaid. Two concessions on their part are equally necessary to their material success and peace of mind. One is that they shall be willing to step outside the overcrowded ranks of teachers, of whatever sort, of incompetent authors and decorative artists, of copyists, saleswomen, or clerks, and courageously accept some vocation where there is still room, or find a new place for themselves. The other is that they shall abandon the foolish notion that they can be happy only in one way or under one set of conditions, when there are fifty other ways in which they may be happy, or at least steadfast and cheerful. Undoubtedly, women who set out to earn their own living do undergo more annoyances and mortifications than men. This is partly because the world is not yet adjusted to the new necessities which compel them to be wage-earners; partly because bad manners are more disagreeable to them than to men; chiefly, we think, because their abnormal sensitiveness makes them see affronts where none are intended. Feeling above their work, they are not willing to be identified with it, as men expect to be identified with theirs. It is not in human nature, of course, to love a vocation which in its nature is tiresome or disagreeable. But it is perfectly possible to ignore the disagreeable, to do the work with one's whole heart, because one's personal dignity requires that faithfulness, and to dignify the labor itself by the manner of its discharge. It is always the "how" that is important, seldom the "what." A great man thought that "work is the great cure of all the miseries and maladies which beset mankind: honest work which you intend getting done." If, then, women would congratulate instead of pity themselves that they have to work, half of their fancied disabilities would vanish in thin air. The question of wages makes no appeal to sentiment. It is simply one of demand and supply. The slop-shop worker gets 25 cents a day, because thousands of women can do her work as well as she. The accomplished needle-woman, going out by the day to fit and sew, gets $3 and her meals, because the demand for her kind of work is greater than the amount obtainable. Intelligent household service is even rarer, and commands proportionately better wages. Neither tears nor rhetoric nor pangs of suffering can change this state of things. Only the resolve of women to do the work that pays best, however hard and hateful, and to do it as men do theirs, without complaint and without condescension, will avail. For the rest, even the world of idleness and fashion displays instances of very bad manners, to which its denizens have to close eyes and ears. Its snubs and insults are not more gracious than those of sordid trade, and the neophyte who would find a high place must suffer with a smile, and keep her end steadily in view. Most men are not gentlemen and most women are not ladies in this busy country where civilization is yet young. The wise recognize this fact, and maintain their own superiority, not by complaints of what they suffer, not by condescension toward the task they must perform, but by an undisturbable propriety of manner and conduct, and a respect for their work so genuine as to prove contagious. —*Harper's Bazar.*

Is Bismarck Superstitious?

The Prussian people believe that Bismarck is superstitious. They say that he is awed by apparitions in uninhabited castles, shrinks from dining where thirteen sit down at table, believes in unlucky days, and adheres to the ancient belief of the influence of the moon on every living thing. But, according to Dr. Busch, this is all nonsense, with the exception of a single story which happened at Schonhausen (where the Chancellor heard mysterious footsteps in the ante-chamber of his bedroom). "The jests about my superstitions," he said a few months ago, "are nothing but jests, or consideration of the feelings of others. I will eat at table with twelve others as often as you like, and will undertake the most important and serious business on a Friday."

How easy is the thought, in certain moods, of the loveliest, most unselfish devotion. How hard is the doing of the thought in the face of a thousand unlovely difficulties.

Mr. Judge, of Leinthall, according to the London *Truth*, has sold three Hereford cows to an American breeder for $3,400, which is the highest price ever yet paid or such stock.

NEAT BREAKFASTS.

Some Remarks on an English Gourmand.

If there be any one matter in England which needs altering, it is the breakfast table. As a rule, the first meal of the Englishman is about the worst meal in the world. It consists generally of eggs or bacon, and though eggs and bacon are really good in their way, too much eggs and bacon is calculated to drive away a man's appetite. More than this, too, our breakfast tables are seldom made to look pretty. Well-to-do people, we hear, ornament this primal meal with flowers and plate and rare china, and because wealth can do this, and does it, people not so well off think that they are shut out from anything of the sort. This is a very silly view of things. Two pennyworth of flowers will make a breakfast table look beautiful for a week, and send "the master" off to his work with a gleam of color and beauty of which he very often thinks during the day. Breakfast dishes, in spite of the British predilection for the dainties mentioned, however, are neither few nor far between. The very best breakfast in the world is that which commences with a plate of porridge. Soak over night a little coarse Scotch oatmeal in water. Next morning boil this into porridge, and eat with sugar or salt—both are good—and a trifle of milk. In go and staying power this gives a man, it is equal to half a pound of steak. A boiled smoked haddock, and an egg, too, make another fine breakfast. Take the bones out of the haddock (cost 2d.), and the egg out of the shell (cost 1d.), mix together and eat with a fork and spoon. No amount of flesh food, in moderation, can give quite so much bodily support to a hard worker a a meal like this. A boiled tomato, too, is a capital relish for breakfast, at a cost, say, of two simple pennies. Another splendid dish for breakfast is made as follows: Take two slices of toast and steam them. This makes them soft, and ready for buttering. Then place on the toast three or four sardines (cost 2d.), put the other slice of toast on the top and bring to table. People who can't fancy eggs or bacon will be charmed with this dish. Cut into slices with a knife, and nibbled through it not only makes a man's internal provinces feel comfortable, but may even give him a bit better appetite for anything which may follow. A man's breakfast, too, it should be remembered, is his start for the day; it enables him to do good work and do it well. Dinner may be left to take care of itself, but wives who do their duty should take special pains with breakfast. If none of these receipts are suitable, and if breakfast, from press of work or lack of time, must be swallowed hurriedly, an egg beaten up in a cup of coffee makes a good meal, and may be taken standing. This is an especially good thing for men to take who have to leave home very early in the morning, and before the kitchen fire is lighted. A little spirit-lamp will make the coffee in a trice, and the egg can be beaten up with a fork as quickly. The one poured into the other completes the dish, and makes a cheap and nourishing meal, and one calculated to keep the raw morning air from a man's chest.

Forty Years Ago.

Coffins were very plain and burial-caskets were unknown.

Tombstones had larger epitaphs and more verbosity engraved upon them.

Eggs were a shilling a dozen and butter considered high at eighteen cents per pound.

The country retail trade was much better, as people could not so easily run to the city by rail.

Business letters were more voluminous and formal, and were written in a precise, round hand.

The diet was more subcharged with grease, the winter breakfast usually being made of salted ham and hot cakes.

Dinner was simply a hasty lunch at noon, and little importance was attached to the necessity for good digestion or a period of rest after eating.

New Orleans and muscovada molasses, very black and thin, was the common sweetening for buckwheat cakes. Refined molasses was almost unknown.

Bread was home made. Coffee was freshly ground every morning, and the grinding of the family coffee-mill was a familiar sound hours before the children arose.

Negro minstrelsy was just cropping out in the travelling circus. There were generally but two performers, who assumed male and female characters. The popular melody was "Jump, Jim Crow."

People did not live as long as they now do, nor was the average health as good as at present. They ate more meat, more grease, more hot bread, and more heavy dishes, and drank more at meals.

At funerals the undertaker cried with the mourners, the flow of tears being proportionate to the expense of the funeral. Young couples considered it a privilege to sit up all night with the corpse before burial.

Tickled and Robbed.

An English judge, having received an intimation that a man he had sentenced to death wished particularly to see him, went to his cell, when the man said: "I stole your watch years ago. You were looking into a print shop in the street." "Yes," said the judge, "but I always wondered how the thing was done, because I particularly valued the seals which were hanging from the fob, and kept my hand on them." "You did, save for an instant, when I tickled you with a straw behind the ear." He went on to explain that the watch was such a peculiar one, the name being embossed on it, that they had been afraid to sell it, and said, "If you get me ink and paper I can give you a letter which will enable you to recover it." And the judge did recover it.

The numerical increase of population during the period of nine and a quarter years has been twice as great in New South Wales, and nearly twice as great in New Zealand, as in Victoria. With the exception of Tasmania, Victoria is the colony in which the increase of population s slowest.

Men of great parts are often unfortunate in the management of public business, because they are apt to go out of the common road by the quickness of their imagination.

Plants in Living and Bed Rooms.

The following observations of an eminent gardener and able writer are well worthy a place in our columns: "Are plants in rooms promotive of health and cheerfulness? In the case of all living rooms I answer in the affirmative. Delicate people complain of headaches and sickness from heir presence, and will, therefore, have them excluded, and rightly too. Plants with powerful odors will sometimes produce that effect. I have known ladies that could not go near a jessamine; others that hated musk; some that would faint at the propinquity of a heliotrope; and others that only approved of mignonnette when not nearer than a furlong. All of us have something peculiar in our likes and dislikes. It is rather ill-natured to consider such peculiarities as mere fid-fad imaginaries. Common prudence would say, 'Keep at a distance from whatever harms you.' In bed-rooms that are shut close at night I would advise dispensing with flowers having powerful odors, even though agreeable to the olfactory nerves of the owner. If he prefers retaining them it would be advisable to place them nearer the floor than the couch on which he reposes. But why not have air in the sleeping room at night, instead of shutting it up close, when the weather is at all favorable, and thus serve the interests of the occupants and those of the plants at one and the same time! The idea of the unhealthiness of plants in living and sleeping rooms has been suggested by our chemical friends demonstrating the influence of vegetation on the atmosphere and the reciprocal action ever going on between the animal and the vegetable world. They tell us truly that animals are constantly taking oxygen gas from the atmosphere, and throwing, by exhaling, carbonic gas into it, and that, from this and other causes, but for living vegetation the air would become impure and unfit for breathing. The solid parts of plants being chiefly carbon—of which charcoal may stand as a familiar type—and every green part of a plant having the power to absorb this carbonic acid in the atmoshere during life, its quality is thus lessened, while the action of the sunbeam enables the plant to decompose the carbonic acid thus received, to retain, add, or assimilate solid matter (the carbon) to itself, and to set the other constituent (oxygen) free for the benefit of the animal world. Thus it would seem that the nearer we get to healthy vegetation the more likely we shall be to get the benefit of this fresh forming oxygen; but, as if to damp our enthusiasm, we are presented with a lesser and a greater drawback to our satisfaction. The lesser is that all unhealthy parts of a plant—yellow leaves, etc.,—and, what is more painful still, all flowers in proportion as their color recedes from the green, vitiate the atmosphere rather than improve it, even during the day. The second drawback is that at night, or in darkness or much shade, even healthy plants exhale carbonic acid gas and inhale oxygen, and just in proportion to their size and powers deteriorate the atmosphere like ourselves, and therefore become, especially after twilight, very undesirable neighbors in our dwelling and sleeping rooms. To this heavy accusation I reply that in general the size of flowers in proportion to green leaves grown in rooms is so small that during the day the advantage greatly outweighs the disadvantage; and though undoubtedly plants do give off carbonic acid gas at night, yet at that time the rooms are generally at their coolest, and as this gas is something like three to two heavier than common air, it will, in such circumstances, fall to the floor, and only be mingled with the general atmosphere by the heat and the sunshine of the following day. Unless the plants were extra numerous the absorption of oxygen would not much influence the air of the apartment. All, or almost all, injury might be avoided by seeing that the plants were lower than the seat or couch of the owner. I believe this the more because dew, the condensed moisture in the air near the ground, holds much more of this gas in solution in general than common water does. On the whole, then, unless in the case of delicate invalids, or of plants with very large flowers having a powerful odor, I believe that healthy plants in rooms are decidedly beneficial, and promotive alike of cheerfulness and health, and that this is especially the case in large cities and towns."—*Land and Water*

The Dream Amended.

Tennyson in the "Dream of Fair Women," edition of 1883, made Iphigenia say:

The tall masts quiver'd as they lay afloat,
The temples and the people, and the shore;
One drew a sharp knife thro' my tender throat
Slowly and—nothing more.

Whereat the critic of the "Quarterly Review" for April, 1883, exclaims: "What touching simplicity! What pathetic resignation! He cut my throat—nothing more! One might, indeed ask: 'What more' she would have?" For many years the poet left the lines as they were first printed; now, as every one knows, they stand thus:

The high masts flicker'd as they lay afloat;
The crowds, the temples waver'd, and the shore;
The bright death quivered at the victim's throat
Touched: and I knew no more.

An Odd Souvenir.

A correspondent writes to a London evening newspaper: "A case which is at present attracting much interest reminds me that I recently saw at Nice, in a shop window a small scent bottle of glass, with silver-gilt mounts, in a shabby condition. It was exposed with the following announcement in English: 'This flagon formerly belonged to Mrs. Gras, the first woman who has thrown sulphuric acid upon her husband. Only £3. Proofs and vouchers within.' There was no notice in French, German or Russian, so that evidently a buyer for this pleasing souvenir was looked for only among the English or American tourists."

A gentleman in Boston, whose sister lived in another city, has been engaged in a rivalry with her as to which should succeed in writing the longest message on a postal card. The sister first sent him a card with a communication of 714 words upon it. He replied with a message containing 1,003 words. Thereupon she returned a card containing a letter of 1,526 words, all beautifully written and possible to be read without the aid of a magnifying glass—although the effort is somewhat trying.