A Baby's Prayer.

She knelt with her neat hands folded,
Her fair little head bowed low,
While dead vines tapped on the window
And the air was thick with snow.
Without, earth dumb with winter;
Within, hearts dumb with care;
And up through the laden silence
Rose softly the baby's prayer.

"Bless all whom I love, dear Father,
And help me be good," she said,
Then stirred up a sudden fancy,
She lifted the shining head.
Did she catch on the frozen maple
Some hint of the April green,
Or the breath of the woodland blossoms
The drifts of the snow between?

"The beautiful trees" she whispered,
"Where the orioles used to sing;
They are tired of the cold, white winter;
Oh, help them to grow in the spring,
And the flowers that I love to gather,
Lord, bring them again in May;
The dear little violets, sleeping
Down deep in the ground to-day."

Ah! earth may be chill with snowflakes
And hearts may be cold with care,
But wastes of a frozen silence
Are crossed by the baby's prayer;
And lips that were dumb with sorrow
In jubilant hope may sing;
For when earth is wrapped in winter,
In the heart of the Lord 'tis spring.

Musical and Dramatic Notes.

Julis Levy, the cornetist, will shortly begin a tour of the world.

The American Opera Company travel this season with over 300 people.

Patti sang at a concert in Albert Hall, London, England, last week to over 12,000 people.

Barry Sullivan, the great Irish tragedian, will visit America professionally next season.

Dr. A. G. Gerster denies that his sister, Mme. Gerster, has become insane. He says the report is a malicious hoax. The lady has been ill but is steadily improving, and there is no reason to suppose that her voice has been affected in any way.

Mr. Wilson Barrett's leading lady, Miss Eastlake, has a peculiar style of wearing her hair, which is likely to become popular. Already several New York maidens have made their appearance on the street with their heads encircled by bizoute aureoles.

Mrs. Langtry waxeth wroth because it has been intimated that she has grown stouter, and, even the fact that the critics all agree that she has improved in her acting, cannot stone in her eyes for the other statement. Embon point is the bete noire of every actress.

Mr. Wilson Barrett is said to owe much of his elocutionary excellence to the tuition of his wife who was formerly Miss Caroline Heath, reader to Queen Victoria, and an excellent actress. She had achieved fame long before her husband.

An awful quarrel has broken out in the Boston Ideal Opera Company because Manager Foster has been trying to boom Mama'elle Lablanche, the new contralto, at the expense of Miss Huntington, the old contralto. The *entente cordiale* between the two has been interrupted to such a sad extent that Mama'elle Lablanche will not pass the cold beans to Miss Huntington at the hotel table.—*Chicago News.*

M. Gounod's kindness of heart is proverbial. Not long since, during his recent stay in Normandy, a little friend on a summer's night incited the composer to make him a kite. M. Gounod set to work and made a monster. Midnight saw the task completed. Just as the new day was creeping in, the maestro took up his pen, and as a finishing touch, inscribed on the face of the toy a brief sonata. Rumor describes it as one of the most exquisite gems that he has ever written.

Modern Maxims.

Slander, like mud, dries and falls off.

Simplicity is often the offspring of incapacity.

The humble man never has to make apologies.

It's a wise sardine that knows it's own father.

Home is the anchor of the soul and happiness the hanker.

A rolling stone may gather no moss, but it doesn't git left.

A black eye to your antagonist is often worth two black eyes to yourself.

Contentment is said to be as good as money. Both are hard to keep.

The wise man takes the bandage off his eyes and puts it over his mouth.

Man is a paradox. He prays for the millennium and acts to prevent its coming.

It is singular, but true, that straitened circumstances do not tend to make a man erect.

Vhen you got a sweet expression on your face it vas cofer a good many freckles abound your coundenance.

The difference between fame and money is that one covers a man with glory and the other with good clothes.

Never borrow if you can possibly avoid it, but if you are compelled to, then borrow enough to make it pay you.

How to Reach the Masses.

"How shall we reach the masses?" asks a religious paper. "Dear brother," replies Burdette, "you can best reach them with a spoon. Go for them with a knife and fork. Humanity's tender point is its paunch. The conscience of man may be seared as with a hot iron, but his maw is ever open to impressions. His intellect may be stunted, but his appetite is a giant. Take him to the concert or the theatre, and he comes away to seek the nearest feeding place where he may gorge himself before he sleeps. The little struggling church that bankrupts itself still further by venturing on a lecture course, finally lifts itself clear out of debt by a series of suppers. A man who will not pay 50 cents for a book will dump $1 50 worth of dinner into his system. A picnic without ten parts of feed to one part of band is a flat failure. When we 'receive' a distinguished guest, we feed him; when we say 'good-bye' to an eminent citizen, we give him something to eat. We have a feast for the wedding guests, luncheon for the watchers, and a light collation for the mourners. There are a thousand restaurants to one library, yes, more. By and by, if the principles of evolution be true, this world will be peopled by a race of stomachs with legs and arms. The legs will be needed to carry the stomach to the trough, and the arms to fill it up."

A number of discoveries of coal veins have been made recently in various parts Oregon.

THE LADIES' COLUMN.

Little Hints for Housekeepers that May Come Handy.

NOVELTIES IN DRESSES AND HEADGEAR.

(Cousin Kate's Weekly Budget.)

Kitchen Accompaniments.

One of those mysterious "housekeepers" who are constantly enlightening the world about the best way to dust a room or to spank a baby, gives this sapient advice: "Another restful and really economical thing is to have a lounge in the kitchen, where you can lie down easily. With twenty minutes change of position, a refreshing article to read, or a nap, you will be surprised how you can turn off the work afterward." It's to be hoped the cook or the maid-of-all-work won't see this, for a lounge in the kitchen would be such a nice plan for accelerating the work of a house, beside, having conceded that, the next requirement must be a piano. If a woman "does her own work" she can lie down when or where she pleases, while waiting for the dinner to cook, but the chances would be the dinner would be ruined. There is no economy in that, surely. People who can't sit up "during business hours" are to be pitied; but don't let them advocate "a lounge" as a remedy, because it is a clumsy piece of furniture that would be awfully in the way of the pots and pans.

Buttons on the Backs of Women's Coats.

(London World.)

The harvest homes are beginning again, and show no sign of decreasing in popular favor. Archdeacon Denison presided for the thirteenth time at the far-famed one at East Brent, in which secluded village some 2,000 people were assembled. There was the usual procession before dinner of men and women carrying huge joints of meat, plum-puddings, a loaf weighing ninety-six pounds, and a *bona fide* cheddar cheese weighing eighty pounds, besides abundance of beer and cider; and the proceedings ended, as usual, with a dance on the vicarage lawn. The Archdeacon quite frightened Hon. A. Hanbury-Tracy, who did not know his ways, by the vigorous onslaught he made on the ladies for wearing back buttons on their coats. He had always thought that women cared greatly for the graceofulness of their appearance, but having watched them lately in London he began to doubt it, and he felt so strongly about their back buttons that if he were a little younger he should start an anti-button society. He amused his audience by explaining that gentlemen originally wore buttons on the back of their coats when they travelled much on horse-back in order to fasten up their coat-tails, but he did not suppose the women of the period proposed to fasten up the tails of their skirts.

Home Decoration.

Pillow-shams are out of fashion.

Pillows are smaller than formerly.

White grenadine curtains, with Cluny lace insertion and edging, are used in drawing-rooms.

Portieres should be of heavy material, and may be of Turcoman, tapestry or plush.

Handsome lamps are used even in houses where there is gas. They are of porcelain, brass or bronze, with fancy shades.

The smaller the room, the lighter should be the furniture and the decoration of the wall. A large room should have heavy furniture and the walls may be dark.

A bed-room should never be somber, the brighter the better. White scrim curtains with antique lace border and insertion are liked for chamber windows. The walls should be of light tint, the pictures restful and pleasing.

Scarfs are greatly in favor, and are put to numerous uses. Chair scarfs are more stylish than tidies, especially for straight-backed chairs. Mantles are often draped with scarfs instead of lambrequins, and bureaus, sideboards and tables are covered with long scarfs with ornamental ends.

There are many things more important about a home than fine furnishings. A room in winter should have all the sun possible; a bright fire, two or three easy chairs, a few extra cushions, and a readable book with the leaves uncut, would go far toward making the plainest room cosy and comfortable.

Do not buy an ugly piece of furniture simply because it is cheap. In purchasing, consider comfort first, then beauty. Try to combine the two in all you purchase. Do not be in haste to get everything at once, but gradually build up your home until it is "a thing of beauty and a joy forever" to all its inmates.

The prevailing wood for dining-room furniture the coming year will be oak, the finest carved in antique style and highly polished. The room should have an oak mantel to correspond. Oak hall sofas and carved chairs are all the rage. Dining-room chairs are usually cushioned in leather.

Fine table damask has the worked monogram in the centre of the napkins and table cloths.

Dinner cloths or tray cloths are now fashionable when made of the new Irish linen with colored borders in so-called peasant work.

Fancies.

A rather pretty style for a 2-year-old baby's frock is of blue surah, with a short skirt trimmed with a flounce of unbleached thread lace; a trimming of similar lace is put on in braces over the bodice, the space between being plaited; the sleeve, cut very long and ample, is caught up at the elbow and fastened with a bow of ribbon.

Small mantelets, with the fronts doubled up so as to form sleeves, are made of a fancy woollen material called natte, in shades of gray and beige. They are trimmed with woollen braid and fringe to match, and are very pretty and useful for morning walking toilets. The same model is also made more elegantly in faille or silk rep, trimmed with guipure lace.

Children's toilets do not offer much novelty, being always of the loose American style. An open vest is now frequently added to the plaited frock. A tasteful mode for a little girl from 8 to 10 years old has the plaited skirt and plastron of striped blue and leather-brown camel's hair, and the open jacket of dark blue cloth, cut out in square tabs, and trimmed with large buttons.

In new mantles we have been shown jackets of frizzly cloth, made tailor fashion, in dark shades of color, travelling cloaks of woollen sanglier, long enough to cover completely the skirt, and mantelets of basket-work silk, or silk rep, prettily trimmed with galloon and fancy fringe. These mantles are quite short at the back, not coming down below the waist, and falling in square lappets in front.

A pretty morning costume is of pale buff flannel and bright blue twilled surah. Both the under and upper skirts are of the flannel—the first plaited, the second draped. The bodice, plaited blouse fashion, is of the blue surah, finished at the top by a band and collar, and at the waist by a wide sash of the same material, tied in a loose bow at the back. The middle plait of the bodice is flattened down, and pretty pearl buttons are placed over it.

The change predicted for our coiffures does not seem likely to take place yet. The hair is still piled up at the top of the head, and well brushed up from the nape of the neck; the only change is, that in front the hair is no longer massed over the forehead; a few light curls or waves fall on each side, but the hair is brushed up well off the temples, leaving the ears quite free. The small peaked capote agrees with this style of coiffure; it is perched on the top of the head, and its trimmings are sprays of flowers, or tips of feathers high in the air. Loops of velvet satin or moire ribbon are superposed and combined with draperies of lace or gauze; wide strings are coming into fashion once more with the new bonnets.

Morning gowns or matinees are fashionably made in the shape of a polonaise or redingote, quite long, though not train-shaped, tight fitting at the back, with an extra width let in to give the necessary fullness at the waist; and loose fronts, open in front over a plastron and skirt-front of another material. For instance, a matinee of this description is of gray cashmere edged with an Oriental border in mixed colors; the plastron and skirt-front are of dark-blue cashmere, with bars of Oriental cashmere across the plastron down to the waist; the collar and cuffs are of Oriental cashmere. In other models the redingote is of cloth-finished flannel with velvet border, collar and cuffs; the plastron and skirt front of striped surah, or of fancy silk and wool-striped pekin; a velvet sash is tied at the waist.

Latest Scottish News.

Rev. Dr. Story, of Roseneath, is named as the successor of the late Rev. Dr. Lee in the Chair of Church History in Glasgow University.

A rumor has been circulated that Mr. Winans, of sporting fame, is anxious to purchase the Island of Skye. At fifteen years' purchase of the present rental it would bring about £1 200,000.

Mr. McEwan, M. P., has intimated his intention of completing, at his own charge, the new Edinburgh University buildings by the erection of a grand hall and other necessary adjuncts, the sum being £50,000.

The fourth centenary of the burgh of Kirkwall, Orkney, was celebrated on the 22nd ult., and the occasion was further marked by the formal opening of the new municipal buildings, which have just been completed at a cost of £6 000.

At a meeting of the Inverness County Commissioners it was stated that during the last four years there had been an increase in the expenditure, due to the disturbances in Skye, of over £13,000, £8,600 of which had been paid by the county.

The minister of Crieff on the 16th ult. told his parishioners that they had only themselves to thank for their losses in the harvest field, inasmuch as on a recent fine Sunday the farmers and their men were in bed or in church when they ought to have been at work.

It is proposed in Edinburgh to present a testimonial to Sir James Gowans, the Chairman of the Executive of the Edinburgh Exhibition. The idea mooted is to start with £2,000 taken from the surplus fund of the exhibition, which is variously estimated at between £10 000 and £20,000.

A DISAGREEABLE JUMP.

Successful Leap from the Suspension Bridge.

A last Saturday night's Niagara Falls, Ont., despatch says: Another daring jumping feat was successfully accomplished here to-day by Lawrence M. Donovan, who came to the Falls last evening on a wager of $500 to jump from the new Suspension Bridge into the Niagara River. At 7 o'clock this morning Donovan drove on to the centre of the bridge in a buggy with a friend, mounted the railing, swung himself over the side and dropped 195 feet into the Niagara River with all his clothes and boots on. He made a straight descent and struck the water with great force, making a loud splash. Men in a rowboat were in waiting and picked Donovan up uninjured but somewhat shaken up. The weather was anything but agreeable for a bath. It snowed all night and the surroundings had a wintry appearance. The atmosphere was cold and raw. On reaching the shore Donovan was taken in a carriage to Dr. Clarke's office, where he was examined and one of his ribs was found to be broken. He does not, however, anticipate any serious trouble from this and is quite elated over his feat.

A Church Case.

Stinson vs. The Synods of the Dioceses of Huron and Toronto, a case decided in the Ontario Court of Appeal yesterday, will be recognized as a somewhat famous suit by a clergyman of the Anglican Church for arrears of an allowance out of a commutation fund. The Court held, affirming the judgment of the Chancery Division, that the plaintiff was not entitled to recover anything, as he had ceased to do clerical duty, engaged in secular pursuits, and had not put himself in the hands of the Bishop as being available for duty.

The artistic effect of Charleston interiors promises to be excellent if some of the new ideas of decoration are generally carried out. To prevent the danger of falling plaster at the next earthquake many proprietors are having walls and ceilings paneled with wood. Stucco work and other light arrangements will be avoided.

FARM AND GARDEN.

A good grooming is as refreshing to a horse as a bath is to a man.

Turnips are a native food for sheep. Farmers in England feed scarcely anything else.

It is useless to hope to destroy the acidity of certain soils by the application of lime and other supposed correctives; only drainage will accomplish it.

The struggle against weeds may be continued in autumn with more or less success as long as the seeds can be induced to sprout, ready for destruction by the harrow.

The theory that fowls and turkeys injure the grain by roaming through it is not true, while the slugs they kill and their droppings made soluble by the rain increase the crop.

All giant or tall-growing celeries should be avoided; as a rule, they are always more hollow, give twice the labor to work and are inferior in flavor to the dwarf-growing sorts.

Where wire fencing is not easily obtained the poultry yards may be fenced with laths, which will last two seasons. Laths make a cheap fence, but the wire netting is more durable.

In storing potatoes the first consideration is to keep them in perfect darkness; the next is that the bins should not be too deep, nor over three feet, else it produces warmth and causes them to sprout.

There is no better plan for freeing rooms and cellars of mildew than to burn sulphur in them. The rooms should be effectually closed and not opened for one hour after being filled with the sulphur fumes.

Flowers intended for winter blooming should be potted at once, if not already attended to. As a rule geraniums that have flowered freely during the summer cannot be depended upon for winter bloom.

The best drug for poultry is carbolic acid. Get a pint of the crudest, for fifty cents, put it at once into a gallon of water and sprinkle it with a broom all over the chicken house and its furniture once a month.

There is no farm interest that tends more surely to profit than sheep on land suited to grazing, especially where weeds or bushes interfere with successful cultivation, or on lands too rough to till easily.

After frost has pinched the grasses they are no longer sufficient for cattle that must be kept in good flesh nor for cows giving milk. Add enough grain and the grass will serve much better to maintain good condition.

Fall plowing, to have the best effect, should be late and the furrows left loose, set on edge, that the action of frost may be complete. Flat furrows shield the lower soil from frost, thus impeding its beneficial operation.

The best bed for pigs is one made of leaves. Fine litter of any kind is always preferred by them to that which is coarse, and the cheapest and most convenient is leaves, which require no preparation for that purpose.

If pumpkins are good food for cattle, the best time to feed them is before they are frozen and while the temperature is not low enough to chill animals that take into their stomachs fifty pounds of the watery stuff at a mess.

Kill your next year's weeds now. Pull, dig, mow, rake, pile and burn all the weeds you can find in tilled land, meadow, pasture and by the roadside now, and you will have destroyed untold millions of weed seeds which otherwise next year would have developed into noxious, labor-making, manure-consuming, crop-weakening weeds, enough to make the heart sick, the back ache and the pocket empty.

All chicken of jet black breeds, the adult fowls of which are black, produce chicks with white breasts. When they get their adult robes the feathers become black. Many amateurs or beginners have been disappointed when breeding black Spanish, black Leghorns, black Hamburgs, etc., to see little chicks with white breasts running around the premises, the remaining portion of the young being black or rusty black.

Oats and peas are sometimes sown together, but only for food, as neither grain will sell for other purposes unless pure. It is claimed that more feed can be grown with this mixture than by sowing oats or peas alone. The peas shade the ground so as to check the growth of small weeds, while the stronger stalks of oats push above them and help to keep the peas from the ground. This crop thus grown is sometimes used for ensilage and is excellent for that purpose.

The air permeats al soils unless filled with stagnant water. If there is motion in the water through the soil it is evidence that some air is present even there. All soils excepting pure sand absorb and retain fertilizing properties from the atmosphere, though heavy and loamy soils do this most. When the country was new it was noticed that fever and ague developed from malaria was worse on sandy soils, though these were generally dry, and the malaria itself was more apt to originate on low, wet lands where there is an abundance of decaying vegetation.

A Pet Dog's Revenge.

Miss Sutton, who resides on the Fingal road, a couple of miles to the west of St. Thomas, met with a painful accident last evening. A collie dog, which has been a pet around the house, took up its quarters on a sofa and upon its mistress ordering it off, the animal spang upon her, imprinting its teeth in her lips, mangling both of them considerably

Preferred Coffee Beans to Cloves.

"I must always keep plenty of coffee in the house," said Clara, on the eve of her marriage, to her mother. "I know Charley is very fond of it, for when he takes me to the theatre and goes out between the acts I smell it on his breath."

Abraham Blackburn, now of Newburg, N Y., his mother, three brothers and three sisters were sold at Richmond, Va., in 1862 and taken to Tennessee. He has just discovered that his mother is living in that State, and has also learned of a brother in Syracuse, a sister in South Carolina and one in North Carolina.

SCRAPS.

THE STORY OF TWO OLD PEOPLE.

Once he was twenty and she only ten,
She was a child, he scarcely in his prime;
Youth seemed so long, and age so distant then,
And noon came not, as now, ere morning time.

But later on they chanced again to meet,
And he was thirty and she twenty now;
"Why, he is old," exclaimed the maiden sweet,
And passed with careless heart and cloudless brow.

Ten years (a weary round) roll on again,
Whose days and weeks, so like each other, pass,
That, when they meet, 'tis he, with sudden pain,
Who cries, in turn, "Why, she is old, alas!"

But often on those tender April eyes,
When hearts beat time to hidden melodies,
"Why was I never loved?" he asks—and grieves.
"Why did I never love?" she asks—and sighs.

And now, oppress with vain regret, they say,
As years wear on in ever-deepening gloom;
"Children, enjoy the sunshine while you may,
And pluck the flower in its morning bloom."

—A man who stutters pays out his words on the instalment plan.

—Feather bands are the preferred trimmings for new fall wraps.

—Very small pokes are worn by young women, married or single.

—Skirts are worn very short, and shorter behind than before.

—At a college examination: "What is the best insulator?" asks the professor of physics. "Poverty."

—The mother of Louis S. Zimmerman, who was lost in the Algoma disaster just a year ago yesterday, will sue the C.P.R. for $5,000.

—Shakspeare said: "The apparel oft proclaims the man," from which we infer that some men in William's time were loud suits.

—The Royal Canadian Academy of Arts have purchased the lot, corner Wilton avenue and Victoria street, Toronto, for $6 000, on which to erect a commodious building to cost $22 000.

—The Imperial Government has decided to grant medals to those members of the Northwest Mounted Police who were under fire in the rebellion, and they will shortly be presented to them.

—A blacksmith put up a weathercock on the top of his smidy the other day, and while he stood admiring it he asked one of his neighbors the following question:

"I want to christen my weathercock
And give it a sterling name of pith.
What would you call it if it were yours?"
"Call it? I'd name it Goldwin Smith!"

—The patriarch of Jerusalem is thus described by one who has just paid him a visit: "He is one of the most kingly men I ever saw, meeting one's conception of King David's appearance in middle life (he is about 55 years old), very strong in every way, and tender-hearted and affectionate as strong."

—The Detroit *Free Press* tells of a Cincinnati man who failed in business twenty years ago and paid but 10 per cent. Week before last he paid all creditors the other 90 per cent., and shortly after was sent to an insane asylum. This last painful fact is not recited to show that those who pay old scores in full are liable to end their days as lunatics.

—A Boston bootblack has a sign on his stand on which is the line from Horace: "*Intaminatis fulget honoribus*"—"He shines with untarnished honors." When asked which word meant shine he replied: "Why, dat word 'fulget,' dat means de same as 'fulgeros ob de sun. F-u-l ful, g-e-t get, dat means as bright as the sun when he's full as he can get."

—The diamond has long been imitated so successfully as to deceive all except experts, but the ruby was held in special honor by lovers of precious stones, because its genuineness was supposed to be above reproach. Now it appears that some very clever imitations of rubies have been made in Geneva, and if the practice becomes general it will probably lead to depreciation in the price of the stones.

FRIENDSHIP.

Like music heard on the still water,
Like pines when the wind passeth by,
Like pearls in the depth of the ocean,
Like stars that enamel the sky,
Like June and the odor of roses,
Like dew and the freshness of morn,
Like sunshine that kisses the clover,
Like tassels of silk on the corn,
Like notes of the thrush in the woodland,
Like brooks where the violets grow,
Like rainbows that arch the blue heavens,
Like clouds when the sun dippeth low,
Like dreams of Acadian pleasures,
Like colors that gracefully blend,
Like everything breathing of pureness,
Like *these* is the love of a friend.

—A wicked little boy. Bobby—Ma, you don't want me to play with wicked boys, do you? Mother—No, indeed, Bobby. Bobby—Well, if one little boy kicks another little boy, isn't it wicked for him to kick back? Mother—Yes, Bobby, very wicked. Bobby—Then I don't play with Tommy White any more. He's too wicked. I kicked him this morning and he kicked me back.

—One night last week a mouse got into the sand mould prepared for a large late casting at the London Machine Tool Company and ran all over it, burrowing here and there. The pouring was done in the morning, but on opening the whole casting was found to be spoiled, involving a loss of $50. The burned skeleton of the mouse was found in the face of the casting.—*London Advertiser.*

—It was at an evening party. Mr. D. St. George Smith was reciting a poem consisting of forty six stanzas. Mr. Brown, a guest, comes in late, "What's going on?" he whispered to Briggs. "Smith's reading a new poem. He has just finished the thirtieth stanza," answered Briggs savagely. "What is the subject—the motive?" "I don't know what the subject is; but I suspect his motive must be revenge. I can't see any other reason for it."

Not to Be Despised.

Boston Hostess (to young man visiting from the west)—We Boston people, Mr. Breezy, are laughed at a good deal for being so partial to beans, but we don't mind it.

Western Young Man (gallantly)—No, indeed, I wouldn't, if I were you, Mrs. Waldo. Beans are a very valuable product. Father, who knows as much about such matters as anybody in southern Illinois, says they are even better than corn to fatten hogs with.—*Life.*

Samuel Cross, of Cherry Camp, Va., has a 36 year-old horse that is as active as any young horse, and has just cut a brand new set of teeth.