"The Guest of the Evening."

Good actions are a fruitage ripe and rare
That bears not fingering. Let me then beware
To touch with venturous hand this curving branch,
Nor lean too heedlessly against the tree
Thus at its prime o'erladen heavily
With golden harvest of a stock so stanch,
Lest I by some rude shock at this light hour
Bring down the Virtues in a mellow shower.

To drop the figure, friends—let's be content
The guest shall fancy less than we have meant.
Speak not too closely of his special good;
That we are here tells more than trumpets could.
Our friendship holds its merits as the light
Holds the hid rainbow; storm that makes them bright.
The modest veil they wear I may not raise,
Lest he should blush to hear, and I to praise

NINETY-FIVE WORDS A MINUTE.

Extraordinary Type-Writing at Cincinnati—Result of the Competition Between Experts.

An extraordinary type-writing match which occurred at Cincinnati last week deserves the attention of all who are interested in rapid writing. The contest was between Frank E. McGurrin, of Salt Lake City, and Louis Traub, of Cincinnati. The match was for a purse of $500, one-half of which was put up by each contestant.

The conditions of the match were that the whole time to be occupied in writing was an hour and a half, forty-five minutes of which was devoted to writing from dictation, and forty-five minutes to writing from copy read by the operator. It was agreed that the matter to be written should be ordinary court proceedings selected by the judges and new to both operators.

The Cincinnati *Enquirer* thus describes the contest: Mr. McGurrin won the choice and chose dictation first, while Mr. Traub, who was in a separate room, wrote from copy. The judges also acted as time-keepers. Mr. McGurrin used a Remington machine, while Mr. Traub operated the caligraph. It was a brilliant performance on the part of both men. It was evident that Mr. Traub could operate faster than his machine would respond, and he was to that extent placed at a disadvantage.

Owing to the compactness of the Remington keyboard Mr. McGurrin was enabled to copy without looking at the keyboard at all, and he could have taken the dictated matter nearly if not as well blindfolded. He displayed marvellous speed, and won the purse, although Mr. Traub proved himself a worthy competitor.

During the contest Mr. McGurrin rested fourteen minutes and Mr. Traub fifteen minutes, the time allowed by the conditions of the match. The men finished at twenty minutes of 12. At the end Mr. McGurrin had written from dictation 4,294, or 95.55 words per minute; from copying 4,415 words, or 96.11 words per minute, making a total of 8,709 words. Mr. Traub wrote from dictation 3,747 words, or 83.26 per minute, from copying 3,191 words, or 70.91 per minute, his total being 6,938 words. Mr. McGurrin beats Traub on the whole time 1,771 words, or 25.38 per cent. An analysis of McGurrin's work shows that he made over seven and one-half strokes per second on an average. Traub's matter contained a considerable number of mistakes, while McGurrin's was comparatively free from errors, the majority of them trivial. The extent of McGurrin's wonderful performance will be better understood when it is stated that he wrote in an hour and a half as many words as would compactly fill four columns of the *Enquirer*.

Underground Pipes for Large Cities.

The increasing requirements of modern civilization are well illustrated by the extent and variety of underground pipe systems now employed in large cities. Thus there are in actual operation:

1. Pipes for conveying and delivering illuminating gas.
2. Pipes for conveying and delivering fuel gas.
3. Pipes for conveying and delivering drinking water and for fire purposes.
4. Pipes for conveying salt water for street sprinkling and for fire purposes.
5. Pipes for draining and carrying off sewage and surface water.
6. Pipes for delivering hot water under high pressure, for heating purposes and power.
7. Pipes for delivering cold water under high pressure, for power.
8. Pipes for delivering live steam under pressure, for heating purposes and power.
9. Pipes for delivering compressed air, for purposes of power and ventilation.
10. Pipes for producing power where required, by vacuum or suction, and for ventilation.
11. Pipes for conveying letters and packages, by compressed air and vacuum.
12. Pipes for regulating clocks, by compressed air.
13. Pipes for conveying mineral oils.
14. Pipes for electrical wires for electric lighting, electric railways, telephones and telegraphy.
15. Pipes for power ropes for driving machinery, moving street railway cars, etc. —*Scientific American.*

How to Live Long.

"Storage of Life as a Sanitary Study" was the title of Dr. Richardson's address at the recent annual meeting of the Sanitary Institute. It cannot have been particularly comforting, even to the members of the institute itself, who may be supposed to act up to the level of sanitary laws. Dr. Richardson agrees with the old saw which links together the two ideas of a merry life and a short one. Everything, he thinks, which quickens the action of the heart beyond its natural force and speed is a stimulant, and must therefore lessen the vital force or "storage of life." Clearly the man who would outlive his fellows must abstain from most of those things which make life enjoyable. He may not even dwell in the unruffled calm of a luxurious ease, for all luxuries are bad, and shorten the natural term of life. The probable duration of this term, supposing the ideal sanitary life is lived, is to be ascertained, according to Dr. Richardson, by adding up the parental ages for three generations back, and taking their average by dividing by six.

If love laughs at locksmiths, he just "snickers right out" at bail bonds. Two eloping coupies have jumped heir bail and gone on with their surreptitious honeymeon during last week.

Jawkins is a mean man. He says all the vacation he wants is—for his wife to go away on hers.

FARM AND GARDEN.

Where the grape vines refuse to grow cut them back late in the season and allow a new shoot to come up from the ground.

Prof. Henry, of Wisconsin, has found that a cow can be fed for 17 cents per day in that State, while the income from the butter made varied from 34 to 50 cents per day.

The farmer who thinks that to make money he must go where land is cheaper should consider well if he would not make more money by making the land deeper and richer.

London *Garden* says that the hybrid white Rosa rugosa, named Madame Georges Bruant, is semi-double and white in color. The expanded flowers are not so pretty as those of the parent.

Do not mistake copperas for sulphate of copper. The sulphate of copper is blue vitriol; copperas is sulphate of iron, or green vitriol. The copper sulphate is that used as an insecticide.

Cucumber vines should be made to trail on a bush, as the cucumbers can then be more easily picked, and they also grow long and of better shape than when the vines are left on the ground.

It is necessary in order to become a successful fruit grower that the person should observe the progress made by all plants in his section, and then endeavor to select from the best varieties.

It seems to be admitted that one can breed for eggs just as one can breed for milk or butter. An egg from a good layer will be more likely to produce a good layer than an egg from a poor layer.

Is it advisable to color butter in order to give it a marketable appearance? Is it not better to sell it on its merits alone, in order to induce a better feeding and secure quality as well as natural color.

Many farmers who have planted orchards on hill-sides have spent much time resetting and doctoring. Able writers say that a side hill where the water runs off quickly is the very place for the worms to hatch their young.

Animals appreciate a clean bed at night. It is not to their comfort to allow straw that has been saturated with urine to remain in the stalls. The best bedding is cut straw at present. Later on leaves can be used to advantage.

To secure good corn for next year the farmer should begin while the corn is growing to make observations. He should note and mark all prominent stalks, as the maturity, vigor and prolificacy are as important as the germination of the seed.

Skim-milk is excellent for pigs at all seasons. They will grow upon such diet when everything else fails. Give them all they will drink, and then if allowed root in the clover field after the crop has been cut they will need but little grain of any kind.

It is claimed that a good cow should give 6,000 pounds of milk per year, and that when she gives only 3,000 pounds she is kept at a loss. The 3,000 pounds represent about five quarts per day for 300 days. Every quart over that amount lessens the cost of the whole.

When cultivating on both sides of the hedge the hiding places of many weeds are destroyed. Hedges should be cultivated and kept clean the same as crops, as the cultivation not only permits of keeping them in better shape but increases in thickness and utility.

The *Breeders' Gazette* remarks that it is a pleasant reflection for the breeder of improved cattle that he is engaged in a business that cannot be, to any considerable extent, overdone, and that the growing requirements of the country will constantly outrun his efforts.

Many people believe that corn fodder has a higher nutritive value if cut when the grain is well formed. Dr. Collier has made more than 100 analyses of corn fodder in all stages of growth, which prove that the fodder actually increases in nutritive value until the ears become ripe.

Peter Henderson says that after the cabbage maggot (Anthomya brassicæ) is once developed no application will kill it that will not at the same time kill the plant. Drawing the earth away from the stems, thus destroying the eggs before they hatch, if carefully followed, will save the crop.

A corner of the barn, or an outbuilding devoted to the purpose of a workshop, in which a bench can be placed, will enable the farmer to do many small jobs that otherwise entail loss of time in sending to the woodworker or blacksmith. Only a few tools are required, and the cost will be but a small sum.

If the pear trees bear spotted or cracked fruit, the New York *Tribune* recommends a liberal dressing of wood ashes as a remedy. It should be scattered around the trunk and as far out on the ground as the branches extend. The trunk should be washed with strong soap suds.

Sow oats and peas together, and turn the crop under as soon as it covers the ground. A large amount of green manure may be grown and ploughed under in this manner, as it is not necessary to secure heavy growth. As fast as one crop is plowed under seed down to another.

When raising calves to be your future milch cows it is not necessary to keep them fat, but they should be made to grow as rapidly as possible. To do this give them the use of a good pasture as soon as they are weaned or old enough, and allow a good mess of ground oats at night. The shelter is also very important, as they should not be exposed at any season of the year.

Don't let your manure heap fire-fang during warm weather. When the interior has heated and the contents decomposed turn the heap over, throwing the coarser materials in the centre. If it is necessary to prevent over-heating before the heap can be handled make several holes in the centre with a crowbar and pour on quite an amount of cold water.

The younger an animal the greater the proportionate gain for the food consumed. When an animal matures it gains very slowly, and as it does not then grow the gain is in fat only. A young animal gains in meat, bone and fat. There is a point reached when the animal can be sold to the best advantage, but the farmer must keep a record of the cost, weigh his stock from time to time, and learn when to dispose of his stock.

Poultry that have the range of the farm after the crops are off really cost but little, and the eggs pay a fair profit, even when prices are low. It is not economical to keep the hens confined in summer. They can, by liberal feeding and good management, be made to pay well in confinement, but they should be made to utilize the food that would otherwise go to waste, which they will do if allowed to forage.

The digestive organs soon get out of order when grain is fed to the exclusion of grass or bulky food. This is true of all classes of stock and also of poultry. It is better to feed hay alone than to allow a surfeit of grain, especially in summer. A variety of food promotes digestion and prevents disease. It is also more econoimcal to give a variety, as less food is then required.

The good points of an ox: A broad, intelligent face, with head up; small neck and horns; length of body; straight back, heavy shoulders, with full brisket; broad loins, hips and stifle; well thighed and flanked down; medium stomach; straight leg and rather short; heavy arm, wide gambrel joint; a good foot and small tail.

One of the principal causes of heaves in horses is the feeding of dirty or dusty hay. Ordinary clean hay can always be fed with safety if properly cut up, moistened and mixed with ground grain, but to feed the musty or dirty sorts is very injurious. Clover, owing to its liability to crumble, often gets dirty, even after storage, and should never be fed without being previously moistened.

The various elements of plant food found in the earth are attracted to the surface in the greatest quantities by keeping the soil mellow to a good depth, and this is done by deep plowing and sub-soiled. Besides the plant food contained in the earth, there is also stored in the air large amounts of plant food, the use of which by plants is greatly facilitated by keeping the soil loose and moist. Deep plowing, therefore, favors the appropriation of plant food under all possible conditions of soil and air.

The *Rural New Yorker* has been trying to ascertain among the correspondents what the three most popular grapes are. For the best three white grapes, Niagara received 12 votes out of 16; Lady, 10 votes; Empire State and Pocklington, 5 each; Duchess and Martha, 4 each; Hayes, 3, and twelve others one or two votes each. For the best red grapes Brighton stood first, Delaware second and Ulster Prolific third. For blue or black, Worden stood first, Concord second, Wilder third and Moore's Early fourth.

"Sheep," said a member of the New York Institute, "should be bred to that type that will yield the greatest quantity of wool. In 1840 the average weight of fleeces was less than two pounds, now many flocks average five to six pounds. Much improvement had been made from 1840 to 1860, but still greater ones since. The sheep which have been celebrated for giving the heaviest fleeces have been among the most wrinkly and greasy. A sheep having a good constitution, large carcase, close wool and oily fleece is my 'ideal.'"

The *Farmers' Magazine* says: The special food to cause hens to lay are secret preparations, but the following is considered a good formula. Two pounds each of bone, linseed cake, dried meat, oats, oyster shells, all finely ground; one ounce of sulphur, two ounces of red pepper, four ounces each of common salt and copperas and one ounce of bread soda. Mix the whole thoroughly, and allow a tablespoonful of salt three times a week to each fowl. As the cost of these substances will be but little, quite a large quantity can be made at once.

Household Hints.

To cleanse a soured sponge, use lemon juice and lukewarm water.

Oil of lavender sprinkled around a room will rid it of fleas.

Tubs and pails well rubbed with glycerine will not shrink.

Never feed a baby starchy food unless you desire to kill it.

See that all food is well cooked; eat plenty of ripe fruit, but not to excess, and if you travel where typhoid fever rages, drink coffee or tea only.

Have the rooms well ventilated, let in the pure fresh air every day and you will be troubled no more with morning headaches and lassitude.

A cistern is purified by placing a sack of charcoal in the water; if the latter gets very low and is no longer wholesome, boil it before using.

During the summer months meat is not a necessity, and pork and corned beef should be left severely alone. Many persons eat these meats and drink ice water all day, then wonder "what makes them feel so queer."

Sprinkle camomile flowers in the beds and the fleas will leave. To drive away fleas from dogs and cats, saturate a string with oil of pennyroyal and tie it around them. By repeating this application every twelve or fifteen days the fleas will leave.

Cream for coffee may be manufactured, and the forgery seldom detected, by beating the yelk of an egg with one tablespoonful of cold water, heating the milk and pouring over the egg, stirring constantly, and still stirring when the boiling hot coffee is added.

A Work of Twenty-Five Years.

It is not from America but from France that the colossal proposal comes for preparing a catalogue of 2,000,000 stars. This bold conception emanates from Dr. Gill, whose astronomical observations at the Cape and elsewhere have produced some notable results and who has put forth his scheme for a star catalogue on this gigantic scale in the organ of the bureau of the permanent international committee for the execution of a photographic map of the heavens. Dr. Gill contemplates the establishment of a central office under the direction of a chief, with assistant secretaries and a staff of measurers and computors. The work, it is calculated, would occupy twenty-five years. Admiral Mouchez, who defends the proposal against some rather fierce opposition which it has provoked, says that the proposed catalogue would cost $4,000,000.—*Philadelphia Telegraph.*

A curious sight was witnessed the other night at Debois' Opera-House, in Elgin, Ill. Forty young ladies, all dressed in red, white and blue, recited "Sheridan's Ride" by pantomime.

CURRENT TOPICS.

PARIS is the city where suicides are the most numerous. The proportion of suicides to the total number of deaths is: In Vienna, 1 to 160; in London, 1 to 175; in New York, 1 to 169; in Paris, 1 to 72.

RUIN by rabbits, wholesale and irreparable ruin, has overtaken several of the ranchmen in New Zealand, where their sheep died of starvation on wide ranges of pasture, everything green and succulent having been devoured by the rabbits.

LORD LAMINGTON has introduced a bill in the British Parliament declaring that, in view of the deceit practiced in the sale of foreign meats, all persons selling meat raised elsewhere than in Great Britain and Ireland, or the Channel Islands or Isle of Man, will be required to procure licenses and to display a sign announcing that "foreign meats" are for sale.

REV. SAMUEL JONES, who is a kind of religious blizzard, is very level-headed on the subject of matrimony. He remarked in a recent sermon that "the best thing on this earth is a happy marriage and the worst thing an unhappy marriage. Whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder; but whom the devil has joined let them go to Chicago."

CONGRESSMAN WHEELER, of Alabama, has introduced a Bill into the United States Congress directing the officer in charge of the eleventh census to ascertain, report and publish the birth rate and death rate among poor whites and among negroes and hybrids of every description and character. The object of this is to see if the statement that the death rate among mixed races is greater than among those of pure blood is true.

PATERSON'S Salvation Army is the real stuff. Three women held the door the other night, like Horatio at the bridge, "in the brave days of old," while the leader gathered in one or two young disturbers. One of the two roughs jumped from a window to an awning and got away. His companion, with the leader after him, managed to reach the window and jumped, but the women seized hold of his coat tails, and he hung suspended from the window. Finally he was released and made his escape.

RIDER HAGGARD, the thrilling narrator of many adventures, has now experienced one himself. The steamer on which he sailed for Iceland, to look for materials for a new novel, was shipwrecked off the Orkneys, and the passengers had to clamber up some dangerously-precipitous shores before they were all safe again, as at last they were, not a single life being lost. We can imagine Haggard at the height of the excitement, rushing wildly around from passenger to passenger, giving instructions in tattooing wills on the backs of wives, children and friends before they tied on their life-preservers.

THE highest priced labor in Holland is the diamond cutter, the most proficient earning $22 a week, working twelve hours a day. Average wages there are, however, only $3.70 a week, twelve or sixteen hours a day. Bakers are paid $3.84 a week, paper makers $3.60; sugar makers, $4.32; painters, $6; engravers, $11. Well, living as an offset must be cheap since the products of these Hollanders can be sold to advantage even in the United States, and manufacturers are prepared to abandon protection and all that it implies and locate in Europe. In Holland, men at low wages and with cheap living are better off than the Americans with high wages and dear living.

His Proposal Rejected.

Some months since a gentleman had the misfortune to lose his wife, a literary lady of some reputation. After grieving for a number of weeks, a bright idea entered the head of the widower. He thought he could do something to lessen his sorrow, and for that purpose he called upon a lady of his acquaintance and requested to speak a word with her in private. Thinking she was about to receive a proposal, the lady prepared to listen with becoming resignation.

"Myrrha," said he, with downcast eyes, as he took her hand, "you knew my wife?"

"Yes."

"It is not good for man to be alone."

"Perhaps not."

"Did you ever reflect upon that part of the marriage service which requires couples to cleave unto each other until death parts them?"

"I have."

"I have often reflected upon it myself. Now death has parted me from my wife and I feel very lonely."

"I should think it likely.

"I think I must do something to restore to me her kind consolations and the memory of her many virtues."

He pressed the lady's hand and sighed. She returned the pressure and also suffered a sigh to escape her.

"My dear," he said, after a long pause, "I'll come to the point at once. I have a proposal to make."

"A proposal!"

"Yes."

"Ah!" she said, blushing and covering her face with her hands.

"I have concluded to write my wife's biography. Now, I have but little skill in literary exercises, and if you will correct my manuscript and write the headings of the chapters I will give you $5."

She sprang from his side and her eyes flashed with anger.

"I'll see you hanged first, and then I won't, you—you—"

She left the room, not being able to express her rage. The widower sighed, took his hat and went home.—*Yonkers Statesman.*

The Echo of a Dinner Bell.

Police Justice—Foolish man, why did you smash that plate-glass window, when you surely knew that you must go to jail for it?

Culprit (desperately)—Well, Judge, since the warm weather commenced I've been living in a fashionable boarding-house, and I'm just hunger-mad from a diet of napkins and silver. Please send me where I can get something to eat.—*Puck.*

An Allentown, Pa., firm of tailors employs a pretty young lady as collector. If a debtor murmurs something about being short of money and hints at "calling again" she smiles sweetly at him and takes a seat from which she seldom rises without the money due in her hand.

—Women who gamble might be appropriately called tiger liliss.

OUR LATE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

The Officials Found Him a "Demon of Detail."

Lord Lansdowne, the late Governor-General, was a very punctilious man, and had quite a reputation for his mastery of detail. He used to inquire very carefully into any account before him, and against every item that he disapproved of or did not understand down went a blue pencil mark. He used to have all his pencils sharpened for him. On one occasion the chief messenger neglected to perform this duty. The same morning the messenger was affrighted by a visit from the Governor-General, who held a pencil with a broken tip. "Sharpen that pencil," said he. The messenger did so, and never forgot his duties again. Lord Lansdowne had a specialty for criminal cases. He would inquire carefully into all applications which were forwarded for executive clemency, and when not satisfied would ask for further information. In this respect he was approached by Lord Lorne. It is related of the latter that during the time Minister of Justice Macdonald held office he recommended a case for mercy. The Marquis of Lorne was not satisfied with the bare recommendation, and sent back for further particulars. The whole of the facts had, therefore, to be forwarded. Lord Lansdowne used always to keep an arm chair on his right hand for the use of Ministers. Occassionally the caretaker in cleaning the room would disturb its position. The alteration never failed to be noticed by the Governor-General.—*Ottawa Free Press.*

Leasing Prisoners.

At the late meeting of the National Prison Association at Boston Rev. F. H. Wines, in the course of a paper on "American Prisons in the Tenth Census," said: "The leasing of prisoners to private persons for a pecuniary consideration is the greatest blot upon our American prison system. It is, in so far as it goes, a virtual abdication of the direct responsibility of the Government for the treatment to be accorded to convicts. The best that can be said of it is that the States which have adopted it do not know what better to do. The leased prisoners are all in the Southern States, namely: Georgia, 1,504; in Texas, 991; in Alabama, 784; in North Carolina, 405; in Mississippi, 353; in Virginia, 358; in Florida, 186; in Tennessee, 154; in South Carolina 145, and in Louisiana, 72. Some of them are leased by the State authorities for graver crimes, and some by the counties for simple misdemeanors. Their condition is for the most part deplorable in the extreme, especially in the county chain gangs. Of this class of convicts, 4,404, or nine-tenths, are negroes; and it is urged in extenuation of the system that the States named are unable to furnish suitable labor for negroes inside of prison walls. It is also said that the negro lacks pride of character, and that he does not regard confinement in a penitentiary as particularly disgraceful, nor does he dread it as white prisoners do. The system is, however, so inherently vicious—involving, as it does, an enormous death rate and an extraordinary number of successful attempts at escape—that it does not meet the approval of the better class of citizens in the Southern States, and it is undoubtedly doomed to speedy extinction.

The Cause of Cancer.

In a paper on cancer in the *Lancet*, Dr. James Braithwaite, of Leeds, discusses the possible causes of proliferation, or rapid growth of the malignant cells. The great change in the habits of the population in regard to food seems to have some connection with the increased frequency of cancer. The whole population consumes more meat than it formerly did, and the upper and most of the middle classes dine late. In the case of the latter this implies the eating of meat three times a day. Dr Braithwaite lays emphasis on the fact that cancer has nearly doubled during the last twenty-five years, whilst the mortality from consumption has become very much less. In the well to do parts of London the disease is common; in the poorer and hard working parts it is rare. It may be argued that in the poorer parts people do not live long enough to have the disease to which old age is undoubtedly predisposed; but too full a diet of meat does most harm in old age. Cancer is very rare in herbiverous animals and comparatively common in carniverous animals. But besides this suggestion of cause there is another, that owing to greater anxiety and pressure in business life the resisting power to the change of tissue has been lowered. In limestone districts the mortality among farmers from cancer is less than in other districts, and it is suggested that the reason is that in limestone regions farmers are more prosperous, and so have less anxiety.

A Plague of Mice.

Australia is suffering from a plague of mice. It is said that from Coomebarabran to Coolah there is hardly a residence that is not troubled in this way. The mice come in droves, and eat everything in the place. On one station, 2 shillings per 100 was offered for their destruction, and during a single night 2,000 were killed. The price then went down to 1 shilling. In one hotel in three nights 1,000 were killed with a mixture of flour and strychnine. At another place the mice ate the whole carcase of a freshly killed sheep in one night, leaving only the bones by the morning. At another station a man was kept, whose sole duty was to keep the mice away from the provender during the time the horses were eating it, and this the man found a difficult task. The week before the races at Coolah the vermin got into the horse boxes at the station and actually ate the bandages from the legs of the racehorses. Sleeping people are said to have been attacked by them. The crops were being destroyed. The mice climbed up the stalks and ate the cobs. Many fields, acres in extent, had been abandoned, the corn being eaten completely away. People were at their wits' end to devise the best means for destroying the pest. The mice burrowed in the fields like rabbits in miniature warrens.

At Saratoga.

"Maw, how I perspire!"

"Dear me, Clara, don't let me hear you use that vulgar expression again."

"Do you want me to say 'sweat?'"

"No, you wretched vulgarian; you must say you are 'bedewed with heat.' The first thing you know people will say we haven't got no style about us."