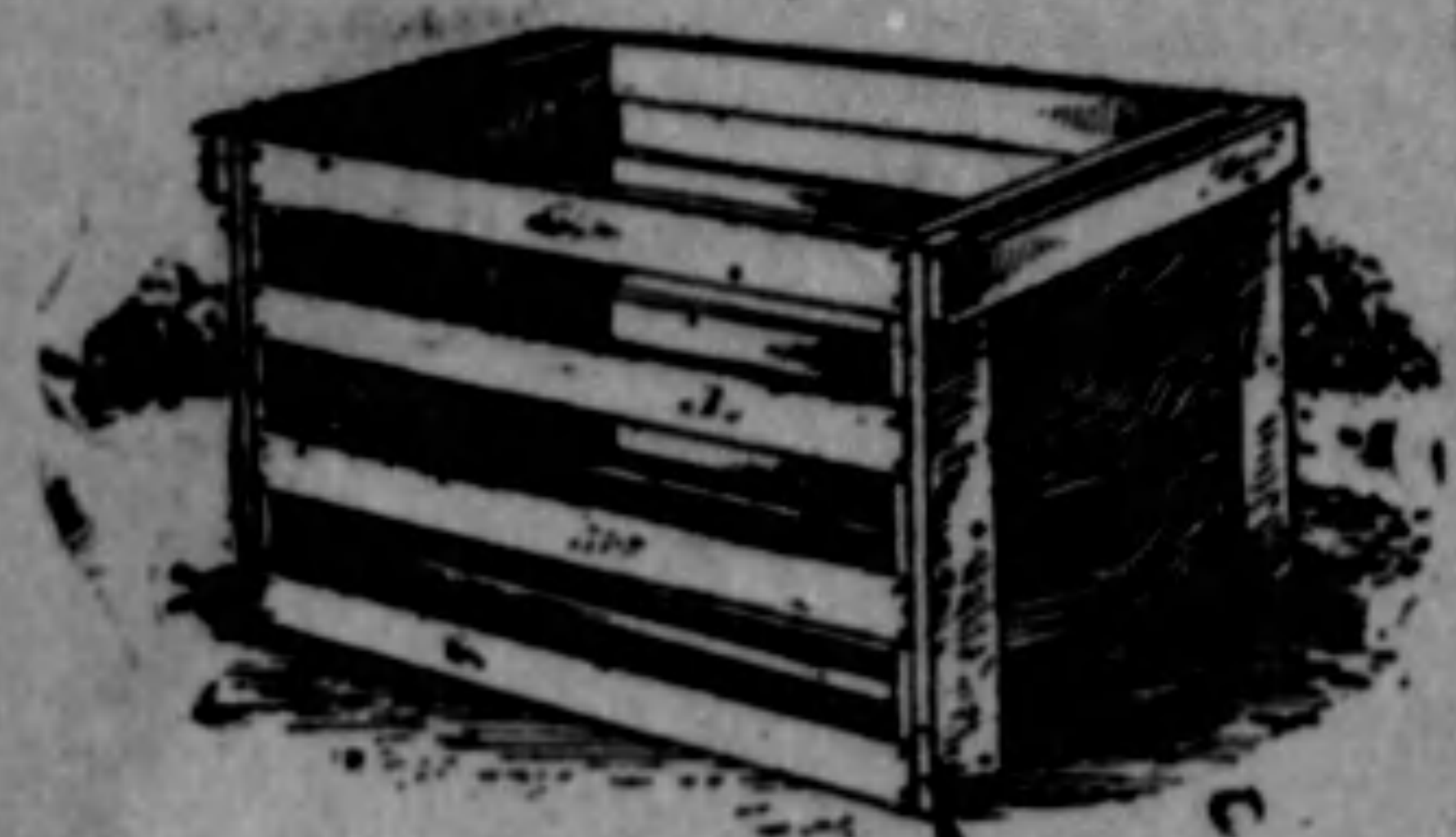


THE FARM.

Apple and Potato Crates.

One of the most successful potato growers in the United States harvests all his potatoes into bushel crates, piling them up upon a two-horse wagon until fully loaded, when they are drawn directly from the field to market or to the railroad to be loaded upon the cars, or to the cellar to be stored for a later market. The advantage in the use of such crates is obvious. They afford a re-



ceptacle into which the potatoes can be picked from the ground and carried to the cart, and as the crate is set into the cart and an empty crate taken, there is no bruising of the tubers, as when poured several times into and out of baskets in getting them from the field to their destination. The same advantage has even more force in the case of gathering apples, which should be handled as little as possible to preserve the keeping qualities of the fruit. Of course a large number of crates is required where one's potato field or orchard is extensive, but well-made crates once provided will last almost a lifetime, and become better and better appreciated the longer they are used. The particular crated figure has solid ends and slat sides and bottom. The ends have two upright cleats and a horizontal cleat at the top, which forms a handle on each end, by which the crate is readily carried. Cut nails and spruce boards would best be used in the construction of these crates, for cut nails and spruce lumber do not readily part company. The crates can be made in bushel or two-bushel sizes, as preferred, being made of such a size in length, breadth and height as will make them fit most economically into one's cart or farm wagon box, taking care always to keep the cubic contents the same as that called for in a bushel or two-bushel measure. Where one is hauling his crops directly to market, such crates will help very materially in selling the crops, for if the dealer can receive them in the crates, pile them up in his cellar without emptying, and bring them up and sell them from the crate as wanted—when the empty crate can be stored away for its owner,—he will be much better pleased, and will often accept produce thus crated in preference to the offering of another which must be handled over at least twice, increasing labor and injuring the fruit. The making of a supply of such crates will afford occupation for some rainy days, when other work cannot be done.

Natural vs. Artificial Conditions.

It is a very general opinion among those who have to do with dairy cows that they should be given natural conditions, as nearly as possible; that nature never makes mistakes, and that in the face of crooked, deformed, and abortive things without number. But when we investigate we find that the cow surrounded by the most artificial conditions is most profitable to her owner. Those who have looked into this matter thoroughly declare that feeding, care and comfort rank next to, if not quite equal to, breeding itself. Breed as we may, if there is not feed and care to correspond, the best results will not be secured, and the best is the only thing that now secures a dividend.

The old saying that "breed goes in at the mouth" is not correct altogether. Feed never produced a breed, but it has maintained and established the breeders' art. Food must also be supplemented with comfort, and this implies stables, ventilation, sanitation, and other things all artificial, and in their way, quite as much so as the finely bred cow, whose appearance in the dairy is not the result of "the survival of the fittest," but of selection that developed and established special traits, instead of ability to rustle for a living, strength to fight enemies, and vigor to outlast a blizzard. In all this there are artificial conditions—economy in feeding, food to stimulate milk secretion, etc.

No one will deny the close relation between the bodily comfort of the cow and her performances at the pail. Now that the winter dairy is at the front—and cold is antagonistic to milk secretion—the nearer we can surround the cow with June conditions, the greater will be her returns. The man who, with food, care and protection, makes 365 days of summer for his cows, giving them in winter the artificial conditions to divorce them from a cold weather life, is the man who makes a success of his business. Compare the performance of such a herd with one back in the fifties, whose winter bed was the leaves of the forest and the bare branches overhead the roof of their stable!

The cow that pays us the best is the one that gathers her subsistence the soonest, exerts herself the least to obtain it, sleeps the longest, chews her cud the most thoroughly, is in no sense a forager, and accords the tradition that she needs hardiness secured by bodily discomfort and needless suffering, battling with cold, hunger, and trenching ice water bath.

Top-Dressing Winter Wheat and Rye.

Instead of hauling the barnyard manure to the field as made, many farmers pile it up in the yard, and after the wheat or rye is sown top-dress the field with the thoroughly decomposed material, which is usually spread directly from the wagon, entailing less labor and a more even distribution than by any other plan. There is, however, a question about making this application after sowing. Those who have tried both plans in the same field and upon the same crop, prefer to apply the manure just previous to the last harrowing, or at least before drilling, as this insures not only a more even distribution but a fanning of all lumps and the covering with soil of a large per cent. of the manure, placing it nearer the growing plant, where the soil will

absorb the fertility, instead of allowing it to escape, as much of it does when simply scattered over the surface. The more thorough the harrowing the better the effect of the manure.

Winter Feeding of Pigs.

Feed pigs one pound of corn or corn meal to 20 pounds of skim milk. This will give a nutritive ratio of 1 to 8, which is a very suitable one for winter feeding in warm and dry pens. They should have some exercise. As the porkers approach the time when it is proposed to sell them, increase the proportion of corn meal to skim milk. During the last few days of feeding the porkers, no exercise should be allowed. Bran or oats are neither so well adapted to the feeding of pigs as corn meal. Pigs, like calves, enjoy a little oil meal, an ounce or so a day per pig. If they incline to get too fat, reduce the corn; if too lean, increase it. There is no certain rule nor certain ration, the feeder should be the judge of what is most economical and best for the animal.

AN ACT OF HEROISM.

Brave Engine Driver James Root, the Hero of Hinckley, Saves 300 Lives.

Governments and kings have orders and distinctions for those who display heroism in war, but none of them that we know of has any decoration to hang upon the breast of him who shows heroism in the peaceful walks of life. The Humane Society and the Life Saving Association, both British institutions, bestow medals upon those who distinguish themselves in saving life, but the Victoria Cross, that special favor of the sovereign, can be won only in the field of war. Yet the Victoria Cross, or any other decoration of merit, would not be too great a distinction for Engine Driver James Root, the hero of Hinckley, who drove his train through a furnace of

SIX MILES OF BURNING BUSH

and saved the lives of 300 persons who had boarded his train. He came through the fiery ordeal scarred and almost unrecognizable, after an experience such as few men could have, yet refuses to believe that he did anything extraordinary. "I merely did my duty," he said when praised for his act. Root had charge of the engine on a Duluth special running through the burnt district of Eastern Minnesota. On the day on which the town of Hinckley was swept away by a bush fire with great loss of life, he ran for miles through smoke so dense that he had to light the headlight. He had no idea the fire was so near, and not till he ran into Hinckley did he know the great peril his train was in. There he found several hundred panic-stricken people gathered at the station, who immediately took possession of his train. The fire was all around him and he resolved to push back to a marsh he had passed. Wrapping his overcoat around his head and stationing his fireman in the manhole of the tank so as to throw water on him to

KEEP HIM FROM ROASTING.

he backed his train six and a half miles to the marsh, the fire upon all sides of him. Here he and others cleared the train and made for the water, where they lay flat while the flames passed over them. The train caught fire and the heat from the burning cars increased their suffering. Here they lay for many hours until a rescuing party came up on hand cars. Such is the brief story of a most courageous act which saved the lives of 300 persons. St. Paul is to make public recognition of the heroism of Root and his fireman, John McGowan, and they are deserving of all the credit which can be given them. Faithfulness in duty is among the most admirable of virtues, and when it is attended by heroism such as this it fills all who hear of it with pride in the race which produces such men.

Electricity in Water.

The great chemist, Faraday, claimed to have demonstrated that each drop of water in a thunder cloud is the sheath of electric force sufficient to charge 800,000 Leyden jars. The explanation of the phenomena of atmospheric electricity is that, whenever water is evaporated, and especially when it contains salt in solution, the rising vapor is always to be found electrified. This has been demonstrated by experiments of a very interesting and successful nature. Plates of porous earthenware were placed in water and in the ground, delicate instruments were then associated with them in such a way as to be able to trace an electrical disturbance set up at the surface of contact where the solids and liquids met. By further experiments it was proved that whenever water is caused to evaporate rapidly by being thrown upon earthenware crucibles heated to redness very energetic extremes of positive electricity were generated. The positive electricity thus set free by such agencies is, as a matter of course, carried up by the vapors which rise into the air, each little particle bearing with it in its ascent its own proper portion of the charge. The vast accumulation of water which rests in the wide basins of the oceans and seas thus becomes a perfectly inexhaustible source of supply of free electricity.

Hint to Photographers.

A photographer at Barr l'Alsace, who seems to have been troubled with unprofitable sitters, has invented a new sort of pillory, in which he places all the defaulters who have failed to pay for their portraits. He exhibits a large frame outside his house containing the photographic effigies of his debtors. Every defaulter's likeness is put into this frame with his or her head hung downwards, and each bears the inscription, "Not yet paid for." Not until they have paid every farthing due will the creditor consent to release the prisoners from this pillory in effigy.

THE WEEK'S NEWS

CANADA.

Bishop's College, Montreal, has decided to confer the degree of D. D. S.—Doctor of Dental Surgery.

The Grand Trunk railway has decided upon issuing a pay ticket, which, by arrangement, will be payable at almost any bank in Canada.

The members of the Montreal bar are complaining of the Dominion Government's delay in appointing a successor to the late Chief Justice Johnson.

Tancred Labelle and John Swift, employees of the Bushnell Manufacturing Company, of Montreal, have been arrested for defrauding the company of more than fifteen hundred dollars.

Mr. H. L. Lawson, M. P., for West Gloucester, son of the proprietor of the London Daily Telegraph, arrived at Ottawa on Friday. He is visiting the Dominion to inform himself at first hand about Canadian affairs.

It is reported that the Massey-Harris Manufacturing Company, of Toronto, intend to build a factory at Niagara Falls, N. Y., to supply their large foreign trade and to locate in the United States, as the raw material can be purchased now cheaper in the States than in Canada.

Major Sherwood, of the Dominion Police has gone to London and Sarnia to investigate some alleged funds in connection with "farming apprentices." Several glib young Englishmen, unmindful of past revelations, have it is said, paid premiums to certain people, who now prove swindlers.

GREAT BRITAIN.

It is stated in London that the chance is in favor of making Southampton the terminal port of the first Atlantic mail service.

A proposal is made in London to buy the house in Chelsea in which Carlyle lived and preserve it as a memorial. Twenty thousand dollars are needed.

The little schooner Nina, forty-seven feet over all, with Captain Frietsche alone on board, arrived at Queenstown on Thursday. She left New York on August 5th.

In connection with the Chignecto ship canal, it is stated in London that the money to complete the work is ready when Canada decides to extend the limit for two years from last July.

Sir Albert Kaye Rolit, addressing the Associated Chambers of Commerce at Huddersfield, congratulated the members upon the improved outlook of the world's trade, and added that the bitter experience of the effects of the exclusive tariff is opening the way to free or freer trade.

In an interview in London Sir Adolphe Caron said that Canada was favorable to an Imperial penny postage system, and the Daily Chronicle, commenting on the statement, remarks that here is an opportunity for taking the first step in the direction of the Imperial penny postage, for which all are waiting.

UNITED STATES.

The first snow of the season fell at Omaha, Neb., on Friday.

Heavy rainfalls in Wisconsin have ended the drought, and effectually quenched the forest fires.

Five Chinamen were arrested recently at Ogdensburg, N. Y., who had crossed the St. Lawrence river from Prescott, Ont.

Timber pirates, who hide the traces of their depredations in the Minnesota pine belt, are said to have started the fires which have caused such an enormous loss of life.

Two men were killed and a score of people injured, half of them fatally, in a cyclone at Charleston, Mo., on Wednesday night, which blew a train from the track.

Harry B. Johnson, superintendent of the Anglo-American Savings and Loan Association, fell dead in Columbia, Pa., on Thursday night, having succumbed to heart failure induced by cigarette smoking.

Notwithstanding the impression that Canadian fish was to be admitted free into the United States, the Secretary of the Treasury at Washington ingeniously reads the new tariff so as to impose a duty of ten per cent.

GENERAL.

Hong Kong has officially been declared free from the plague.

Many Europeans employed in the Chinese Customs are resigning their positions in order to enter the Chinese navy.

A despatch from Paris says it is not the English, but the Americans, who oppose the subjugation of Madagascar by the French.

Chinese agents in Hong Kong are offering bribes to the soldiers of the British garrison to induce them to desert and enter the Chinese service.

A despatch from Calcutta says that the highest flood ever recorded in that district is now causing much trouble at Lucknow, where a portion of the city is inundated.

It is reported that when the Japanese fleet were creeping in the dark upon Wei Hai-Wei a British man-of-war saluted the fleet, thereby warning the Chinese forts.

L'Autorité, published in Paris, says that the Emperor of Germany is trying to organize a conference of the powers, with a view of bringing about a general disarmament.

The Japanese Government has invited the United States to detail an officer, or officers, to travel with Japan's army, and witness the various military operations which will ensue.

M. Max Lebaudy, the eccentric French millionaire, gave a bull fight in an arena on his property on Saturday, to which two hundred members of the aristocracy were invited.

In an interview, Mr. Dewitt, the Russian Minister of Finance, said that the Czar, by his absolute will, has more than once preserved the peace of Europe, and he still desires peace.

An official despatch from Pretoria, capital of the Transvaal, says that the chief leaders of the insurgent Kaffirs, after continued fighting, have surrendered to the Boer commanders.

During Emperor William's visit to Marienburg red posters, bearing the words "Down with the Emperor and the Monarchy," were

found displayed in various parts of the town.

Gen. Francisco de Bourbon, who last week issued a manifesto claiming heritage to the house of France, will be kept under military arrest for two months as a punishment for issuing the manifesto.

SOCIAL UNREST EVERYWHERE.

An Influential Body of Men and Women Who Will Seek for a Solution of the Problems That Confront Us.

It can not be denied that social questions are fast pushing all other human interests into the background, and presenting tremendous problems that are rapidly absorbing the interest and attention of all classes of people. We certainly seem to be upon the verge of a great social revolution. The spirit of social unrest is felt everywhere. Questions once confidently supposed to be settled are being torn up by the roots. The fundamental principles of our social life are in dispute. The rights of property and labor, which were once supposed to be the synonym for social stability and permanence, are again flung into the arena of human debate. There is no disguising the fact that thoughtful men are filled with the profoundest anxiety and apprehension. They have been comparing the time with certain other historic periods and finding in the striking resemblances new causes for anxiety if not for despair. But the careful observer will find, I think, a ground of hope for the future which was generally absent from all those past periods that ushered in great social upheavals followed by retrogressions. In the past, all great social revolutions which were disastrous to the orderly growth of social progression came because society was divided by hard caste lines. On one side there were the suffering and oppressed classes and on the other the oppressor. Between these two there was no mediating class, both willing and competent to see the difficulties that embarrassed both classes and prevented an amicable settlement of mooted questions.

In the first French revolution there was unreasoning hatred, bitter contempt, general misunderstanding and horrible anarchy, because there was no influential body of men who, seeing the wrong the people suffered, strove in a wise way to reconcile class antagonisms. There were practically but two classes, those who upheld and those who destroyed the ancient order of things. The few moderates were without influence and without power. To-day society is blessed with the presence of an increasingly large and influential body of men and women who have intelligence and knowledge, and who have also the unselfish and noble desire to look all the conditions in the face and seek for a just solution of every problem that confronts us. These people are the natural mediators of society. There is a large class of ignorant and selfish rich; arrogant because they are ignorant, and ridden by the delusion that the ability to make money carries with it the ability to govern society. Left to themselves, these men would work their own destruction. There is an equally ignorant and selfish body of poor men, who seek in luck a substitute for thrift, energy, economy, knowledge and self-denial. They are more dangerous than the ignorant rich, because this latter class have the timid instinct of conservatism. Both classes will take all they can get and give no fair equivalent. Between the two stand the natural mediators of society. They were never so numerous, never so alert, never so fearless in the performance of duty. They are drawn from both social classes. There are poor men who know the responsibilities and temptations of the rich. There are rich men who know the hardships and struggles and sorrows of the poor. These men and women, by the grace of God, will be the saviors of the State, the conservators of society.

Plates Made Out of Stamps.

The writer had heard of stamp plates, but had never seen any of them. There were six white porcelain plates, with scalloped, lace-like edges. Stamps had been dissected and applied to these in all sorts of ingenious devices. Sometimes the heads of two-cent stamps were placed in a circle around the centre, with little flourishes between made of the numbers, while the bordering of the stamps made spraylike decorations. Stamps of all denominations were used and of all colors, but so cleverly were they managed that considerable examination was necessary to recognize the component parts of the familiar stamps. These plates must be a great deal of work to do and they look as if water would ruin them, but they are ingenious and pretty.

Where Doctors Agree.

"In your consultation, doctor, with Dr. Bolus on Bibb's case did you agree?"
"Only on one point."
"Ah! What was that?"
"Our fees."

A Great Boon.

"Habit," said Willie Washington, "is one of nature's greatest gifts to mankind."
"It isn't generally so considered."
"The popular mind is prone to misapprehension, you know. The fact isn't generally appreciated that habit is what makes people do things they enjoy without having to go to the trouble of wem-bow-ing to do them."
And Willie paused in silence and rested his mind.

Enough to Support.

She—"I am afraid there is no hope."
He—"Eh! What did your father say when you told him that I wanted to marry you?"
She—"He said he couldn't afford it."

A Safe Knife.

Customer—"This penknife you sold me is so soft that the blade is dull before I get through sharpening a pencil."
Street Vender—"Yah. Dat is so ven you comes to sharpening de point against your thumb you von't cut yourself."

A STRANGE PEOPLE.

THEY WEAR STEEL ARMOUR CONTINUALLY, AT WORK OR ASLEEP.

Some of the Curious Customs of the Chevsurians, a Barbarous People. Who Have a Medieval Appearance—Number About 6,000.

The Caucasian mountains Anatoris-gelo, Archotis-tavi and Tschauhi, rising to an elevation of from ten thousand to twelve thousand feet, enclose a basin, the home of the Chevsurians, who number about six thousand souls.

The Chevsurians are pagans, and one may get a general idea of their civilization when it is related that their miserable huts are lighted only by means of pine torches.

They are a people in arms. The men never lay aside their heavy iron armor nor their weapons; even while plowing in the fields they carry them. The mail gives them a medieval appearance, yet the poor covering of the leg shows barbarism. In a strap on the back every man carries a whip, heavy and strong enough to break an arm. On the thumb he wears an iron ring—Sazeruli—with a rough surface, that he may leave an everlasting mark in his enemy's face when he strikes him with it.

HOW BIRTHS ARE REGULATED.

The Chevsurians, like the old Iberians, the modern Basques, and other peoples who preserve traces of a matriarchal order of society, have perpetuated the custom of the father "lying-in" on the birth of a child, as evidence of paternal parentage. The women are isolated at pregnancy in special quarters known as the "Satschechi," and cannot return to their own residences until after a ceremonial purification. A Chevsurian father has his trials too. He must live abstemiously for seven weeks, while friends and relatives are treated with liquor and beer in abundance. It is believed, or the belief is pretended, that the father's diet reacts on the child's health. The children's names are directly from nature. The boys are named after animals and the girls after Sun, Moon, Stars, or flowers.

Public opinion among the Chevsurians demands that no child be born till four years after the marriage, and after that there must be three years, at least, between births; and no family ought to have more than three children. Thus the Malthusian law rules these poor people as severely as the Code Napoleon rules the French peasants, who fear too great a subdivision of their farms.

The main work of the girls is to collect the cow's excrements and to dry them for fuel. The boys are trained in eloquence and use of arms. A boy eight or ten years old endeavors to imitate the grown man.

LAWS OF THE VENDETTA.

The vendetta takes a peculiar form among the Chevsurians. As soon as a murder is reported, all the relatives of the deceased go to the village of the murderer and burn his house. The murderer's relatives dare not show themselves for a year lest they be killed. At the end of one year, the murderer in company of a brother arrives secretly at the altar of his victim to make an offering of atonement and ask protection. Word is sent to the family of the dead one that the assassin wishes to pay the penalty for his deed. They all come rushing and crying "Blood for blood," but enter upon peace negotiations. It is agreed that the slayer shall make a memorial feast and pay four hundred and sixteen sheep, the regular price for homicide. Every year thereafter he must sacrifice a sheep to the memory of the slain one. Only one exception is made to the paying of that great penalty. If one of the family of the deceased is dangerously ill, the peacemaker announces that the sick one will die unless the murderer is forgiven. This is done; the slayer pays a smaller penalty; and, in this case, to the maternal side of the family. This custom of paying to the maternal side is undoubtedly a survival from the matriarchal times.

HOW THEY SETTLE BILLS.

The Chevsurians have no money. The standards of value are the ox, the cow, the sheep, and the horse. A stallion is equal to four cows, a mare to six, a cow to four sheep. A wound in the head which exposes the brain is worth sixteen cows; the same price is assessed for an injury to a leg or an arm. If one destroys the use of a thumb he must pay the sufferer five cows, four for the next finger, three for the next, two for that after, and one for the last. An eye costs thirty cows.

If a ewe B one sheep and does not pay, B may select C, who pays him the sheep and requires two from A. If A does not pay, C may go to D to get his two sheep, while D demands four from A, and thus ad infinitum.

Very prominent among the Chevsurians are the Kadagians or soothsayers. Next in importance are the Dasturiens or sacrificial priests. Their religion is mainly pagan with a few Christian and Mohammedan ceremonies. They are not monotheists. Sacred groves and altars every where to the gods of trees, etc., prove that. The "god of the east and west" and the "cuckoo" and "swallow" are prominent deities. The cat is an accursed animal among them.

Musical Dishes.

An American lady living in London has lately received the most original wedding present, consisting of a musical dinner service. Each plate commenced to play a tune when placed on the table, so that the great difficulty is to place every plate exactly at the same moment on the board, or else the discords are something indistinguishable. The soup plates play marches, as at the beginning of the dinner the guests are supposed to be serious, the other plates, for different melodies, at each succeeding course becoming merrier until the dessert plates arrive, which only play the maddest of dance music, the guests being supposed now to have lost their solemnity and to be of cheerful countenance.