A NEGRO SONG.

Now de rain am come at last,
An' de long drouf time is past,
An' de grass am comin' fast
In de shower;
An' de mornin' glory brier
An' de pusley's growin' higher
Ebry hour.

Chorus—Oh, darkies, mind dis warnin',
You won't hab long to play,
For dem glories in de mornin'
Brings trouble all de day.

Oh, de cabbage laugh to-day,
An' de squashes sing and play,
An' dem taters grow away—
Out de row';
But de chucklebers am springin',
An' de debil's seed am bringin
Work and wo.

Now, darkies, sho's your born,
Mas a Reuben's early horn
Will call you in dat corn
Wid de plough;
For de rag weeds am a loomin',
An' dem May pops am a bloomin',
Tell you now.

Oh, de rain crow call de rain,
For de white folks' good and gain,
But de darkies work in pain
Mo' and mo';
For de coffee-weed am smilin',
An' dat cotton-field am spilin'
For de hoe.

Tank de Lor', He knows de best,
For de parchin' corn am blest,
An' de darkies hab some rest
In de shower;
But dat mornin' glory brier,
An' dat pusley's growin' higher
Ebry hour.

Practical Jokers.

The practical joker ranks between the incessant punster and the anecdote man, among human nuisances. Theodore Hook combined the three in his eccentric self, and it was the rarity of the combination which saved him from being socially lynched; had he excelled in only one, he would have been "cut" to a certainty, but excelling in all three he was a nuisance of such magnitude that the fashionable world had for a while to put up with and affect to admire the brilliant bore. Such a combination is exceptional; the talents are ordinarily dealt out more sparingly, each bore having his specialty, and, for the time we are in contact with him, by concentration of force, being able to overshadow nuisances of either of the remaining types. The practical joker is, while active, the most objectionable of all three; he is unsuspected, takes a mephistophelian delight in our discomfort, will stick at scarcely anything in the way of inflicting pain for his own gratification, and will aggravate the pain he has wantonly caused by some rascally reference to the fun it has furnished him. Practical joking is an outrage against which neither benevolence, humility, patience, nor position is a protection; it is an outrage which rarely draws upon the perpetrator any more serious penalty than the contempt and hatred of the victim, which to the former only gave additional zest to his vile performance. A little incident in Brooklyn suggests that it is possible to reach even this social pest very directly, and to have some compensation for the wrongs suffered at his hands. A number of young men dispersed a social gathering in a church by burning pepper on a stove in the basement, the fumes rising and driving the assemblage almost frantic. The joke, so far, was a great success for the jokers; but the retaliation came in the shape of the alternative to those funny folks of either going into the dock or paying $100 to the funds of the church, which happens to be rather more needy than proud. This mode of dealing seems to be one susceptible of wide and varied application, and if applied systematically would doubtless tend to restrain the tendency strong in people of small intellect and smaller hearts to make merry at the expense of others.

A Fair Price.

The following from the *Monetary Times* is in season just now, and we hope it will assist our farmers to come to the determination to sell while the the price is a fair one, instead of waiting for an advance which may or may not take place: "We see it stated that a number of wheat growers in the vicinity of Chatham have formed a combination to hold their grain till the price offered by the local buyers rises to a point which pleases their fancy; and that the buyers, not unnaturally, refuse to advance. We are not told what the price is in either case, and are unable to judge what grievance, if any, the sellers have; but we fear it is the usual story with them, and a very foolish one. The farmer takes upon himself to decide what his wheat *should* be worth to the dealer, and stubbornly holds out for that figure. He gets some fancy about war prices, and is snared by an idea, but he often ends by taking, six months afterwards, a half less than he was previously offered. It is never safe to refuse a fair price. Thousands have been lost to individuals and millions to the country, by just such policy."

Female Society.

To a young man, nothing is so important as a spirit of devotion (next to his Creator) to some amiable woman, whose image may occupy his heart, and guard it from the temptations that infest on all sides. A man ought to choose his wife as Mrs. Primrose did her wedding-gown, for qualities that will "wear well."

"Twas ever so—To owe is human, to pay up divine.

Gems of Thought.

Gratitude is the most dignified return you can lavish on your benefactors.

True zeal will always inculcate moderation without diminishing a conspicuous intrepidity.

Prudery is often the mantle chosen to conceal triumphant vice. Where inward remorse prevails, there will always be a corresponding absurdity in affecting genuine virtue.

Our natural disposition to evil is evident in this: that vice tracks out its own path and stands in need of no instructor; while it requires not only example, but discipline to initiate us in virtue.

Deceit has the effect of impoverishing, as well as enriching men; the prodigal becomes poor by pretending to be richer than he really is, while seeming poverty is the very making of a miser.

Talents, without the accompaniment of religion, are but fatal presents; they not only add strength to the vices of the individual, but what is worse, they render them more conspicuous to the world.

The faults of a fool are concealed from himself while they are evident to the world; on the other hand, the faults of the wise man are well known to himself, while they are masked over and invisible to the world.

Civility is to a man what beauty is to a woman. It creats an instantaneous impressiom in his behalf, while the opposite quality excites as quick a prejudice against him. It is a real ornament, the most beautiful dress that a woman can wear, and worth more as a means of winning favor than the finest clothes and jewels ever worn.

Old Maids.

Many of the satirical aspersions cast upon old maids tell more to their credit than is generally imagined. Is a woman remarkably neat in her person, "she will certainly die an old maid." Is she frugal in her expenses, exact in her domestic concerns, "she is cut out for an old maid." And if she is kind and humane to the animals about her, nothing can save her from the appellation of "old maid." In short we have always found that neatness, modesty, economy and humanity, are the never-failing characteristics of "an old maid."

To Crystalize Fruit.

Pick out the finest of any kind of fruit, leave on their stalks, beat the white of three eggs to a stiff froth, lay the fruit in the beaten egg with the stalks upward, drain them and beat the part that drips off again, select them out one by one and dip them into a cup of finely powdered sugar; cover a pan with a sheet of fine paper, place the fruit inside of it, and set it in an oven that is cooling, when the icing on the fruit becomes firm pile them on a dish and set them in a cool place.

Go forth in haste with Pail and Paste,
Proclaim to every Nation,
That men are wise that advertise
In the present generation.

Reports from the Southern States say that the cotton crop is luxuriant, but is in some danger from the worm.

—The German Government is connecting the principal cities of the Empire by underground telegraph wires.

—The Mitchell *Advocate* is responsible for the following:—A certain clergyman in this town (Mitchell) lately prayed for the success of the Russian army over Turkey. A few Sundays later another clergyman in the same pulpit prayed that Turkey might conquer Russia.

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I am making up a large stock for the present season, from the best material.

Call and See our Handsome Buggies

Now is a good time to secure bargains.

Strict attention given to

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JAMES RYDER.

Acton, Feb. 26, 1877.

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Our teas are all selected for their superior drawing qualities
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Guelph, March 5, 1877.

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