Poetry.

THE OLD MAN'S MEDITATIONS.

BY C. C. COFFIN.

The Old Man walked with weary feet,
And gazed with clouded eye;
Slowly with the waves did beat,
He thought perhaps the winding sheet
Would soon o'er him its foldings meet—
That soon he was to die.

He thought of childhood's happy hours,
And knew that they were fled:
He played once more amid the flowers,
He built again the airy towers,
And sat within the shady bowers,
With friends who now were dead.

He thought upon the distant land,
Which he had travelled o'er:
He asked—"Where is that happy band
Which started with me hand in hand,
Who left their foot-prints in the sand,
And then were seen no more?"

He thought how fast the time had sped,
He saw the setting sun;
Where was the wife which he had wed,
Would she stand by his dying bed
And pillow up his aching head
When life's last sand had run!

Where was the mother, who had prayed
To God to bless her child:
Who soothed his sorrows when afraid,
And then in joy with him had played,
And called him back when he had strayed,
And looked on him and smiled?

Where was the father, whose kind hand
Had over him been cast;
Who in his arms his child did bear,
Who taught to him his evening prayer,
Who rocked him in his little chair,
And loved him to the last?

He looked upon the sea of years
O'er which he long had sailed:
The new-born hopes and pregnant fears,
The sudden joys and scalding tears,
And tales of love again he hears,
For memory has not failed.

He sees the wrecks upon the shore,
And everything is dear;
The roaring waves around him roar,
The angry clouds their torrents pour,
His friends are gone for evermore,
And he alone is here.

Yet through the long and gloomy night
The Old Man saw a star;
It is a happy cheerful light
That gleams upon his misty sight;
It nearer comes, and shines more bright—
Heaven's light house from afar.

Random Readings.

An Irishman complained to his physician that he had stuffed him so much with drugs, that he was sick a long time after he got well.

'Is Miss S. at home?' asked a gentleman of her who had answered the call of the knocker. 'I think not, sir,—I'll go and ask her,' was the reply.

It is the troubles that wear the heart out. It is easir to throw a bombshell a mile than a feather—even with artillery. Forty little debts of a dollar each will cause you more trouble and dunning than one big one of a thousand.

A brother editor tells us that when he was in prison for libelling a justice of the peace he was requested by the jailor to give the prison a puff.

THE YANKEE AND MR. SMITH'S FAMILY.—Well, I put up with a first rate, good-natured fellow that I met at a billiard table. I went in and was introduced to his wife, a fine, fat woman, looking as though she lived on laffin', her face was so full of fun. After a while, after we'd talked about my girl, and about the garden, and about the weather, in come three or four children, laffin' and skipping as merry as crickets. There was no candle lit, but I could see they were fine looking fellows, and I started for my saddle-bags, in which I had put a lot of sugar candy for the children as I went along. 'Come here,' said I, 'you little rogue: come here, and tell me what your name is.' The oldest came to me, and says 'my name is Peter Smith.' 'And what's your name, sir?' 'Bob Smith.' The next said his name was Bill Smith, and the fourth said his name was Tommy Smith. I gave 'em sugar candy, and old Mrs Smith was so tickled that she laughed all the time. Mr Smith looked on, but didn't say much. 'Why,' says I, 'Mrs Smith, I would not take a good deal for them four boys if I had 'em—they are so beautiful and sprightly.' 'No,' said she, laffin'. 'I set a good deal on 'em but we spoil 'em too much.' 'No,' says I 'they're well-behaved children, and by gracious,' says I, pretending to be startled by a striking resemblance between the boys and the father, and I looked at Mr Smith, 'I never did see anything equal it,' says I, 'your own eyes, mouth fore head, and perfect picture of hair, sir,' tapping the oldest on the pate. I thought Mrs. Smith would have died laughin' at that, her arms fell down by her side, and she shook be whole house laffin.' 'Do you think so, Colonel Jones?' said she looking toward Mr. Smith, and I thought she'd go off in a fit. 'Yes,' says I, 'I do really.' 'Haw, haw, haw,' says Mr. Smith, kind o' half laffin,' 'you are too hard on me now with you jokes.' 'I ain't joking at all,' says I; 'they are handsome children, and do look wonderfully like you.' Just then a gal brought a light in, and I'll be darned if the little brats didn't turn out to be niggers, every one of 'em! and their heads were curly all over! Mr and Mrs Smith never had any children, and they sort o' petted them niggers as playthings. I never felt so streaked as I did when I found out how things stood. If I hadn't kissed the nasty things I could a got over it; but kissing them showed I was in earnest.

MAKING FARM LIFE ATTRACTIVE.

A few months ago, something was said of the importance to farmers, of cultivating a habit of observation, and of making notes of their experience for the benefit of others. A few thoughts on this general subject may be added:

Why should not every farmer make a cabinet collection of every kind of rock upon his land? All soils are made up, in no small measure, of these rocks disintegrated (worn down) by the action of the elements. Having small specimens of these rocks arranged on shelves in his house, he can daily see the chief constituent elements of his farm.—To do this, he need not himself be a scientific chemist or mineralogist; the neighboring school teacher or educated physician will tell him the precise name and quality of every stone. Then let him label them, and at his leisure read and learn all he can about his cabinet of minerals.

Near by, let him have of the different soils on his farm; from the hill and valley topsoil, subsoil, alluvial, clay, gravel, and sand. Let these be arranged in vials and bottles, and neatly labeled. And let him not stop here. Do not trees grow in his wood-lot and orchard, and grasses and grains in his field? Let him select specimens of every variety of wood—say a small cross section of every sort of tree, specimens of their leaves, flowers, and seed, and samples of dried grasses and grains neatly prepared and labeled. And as to fruits, if he has a son or a daughter skilled in drawing, they should make pictures of all the fruits growing in his orchard. A gentleman of our acquaintance has begun to make a collection of fruits, drawn and colored by his own hand in leisure hours, and it is very beautiful. He takes the fruits as they successfully ripen, drawing and painting them in water colors. He began with the earliest strawberry, and included the cherries, raspberries, currants, summer pears, apples, and Fall and Winter fruit. Those which escaped him one year, he obtains the next year.—When he has copied the whole circle of fruits growing in his neighborhood, he intends to have the drawings handsomely bound. They will make a set of books of rare interest and value!

Let the farmer and his family make some collections of this sort. And to these things let him add specimens of the insects injurious to vegetation, classified and named. Nor would it be amiss to make our purchase drawings of useful animals, farm implements, and various works of art and taste.

But enough has now been said to show that a wide field of pleasing and useful information lies open before any farmer. How much would the habit we have advocated tend to liberalize his views, give him a new and strong interest in his chosen profession, and elevate it also in the minds of others! It would then be plainly seen that there is no end to the subjects of interesting and useful observation and thought suggested by the pursuits of agriculture. And what happy influence would this habit of observation exert on the children educated on a farm so conducted! They would grow up thinking men and women, and they would honestly and fondly love the calling of agriculture.

How foolish it is for farmers to complain of their children forsaking the homestead at the earliest opportunity, while such parents do nothing to invest farming with some kind of attractions! Their children would be dolts, if they did not wish to get away from some farms we know of. But let parents show them agriculture is something beside a drudgery; show them that it awakens thought, demands thought, and honors thought, and they will not run away from it. They will not hasten toown and cities to engage in trades and professions less honorable, more uncertain of yielding pecuniary advantage, and less beautiful in body and mind and morals.—*American Agriculturist.*

MANURES FOR GRASSES.

Nearly all the experiments which have been made with artificial manures for grasses, indicate that, like wheat, barley, oats, etc., the grasses proper—such as timothy, rye grass, etc.—requires a large amount of ammonia. In the park at Rothamsted, which has been in grass for a great number of years, and the crop frequently made into hay, and removed from the land, manures containing much ammonia were very beneficial on the grasses, while those furnishing potash, soda, and other inorganic substances, had the effect of causing clover and other leguminous plants to spring up and flourish. The effect was very marked, and the result fully sustains the deductions made from direct experiments on clover, wheat, barley, etc. We are warranted in concluding that clover and other leguminous plants require a larger amount of alkalies in the soil than wheat and the grasses generally, while the latter requires manures rich in ammonia.

Some experiments, recently made in Scotland by Thomas Ferguson, also favor this opinion. Land recently seeded with rye-grass and clover was top-dressed with various fertilizers. Those furnishing a free supply of ammonia or nitric acid increased the rye-grass to such an extent 'that the clover plant was choked, and came up very thin in the aftermath.' One hundred and twelve pounds of sulphate of ammonia, costing $4 50, gave an increase of 1,524 pounds of hay per acre, 224 pounds of Peruvian guano, costing $6, an increase of 1,260 pounds; 112 pounds of nitrate of soda, costing $5, an increase of 1,540 pounds; 280 pounds of superphosphate of lime, costing $5, an increase of 292 pounds; while sulphate and muriate of potash gave an increase of only 30 pounds.

In another field, on a two-year old pasture, an application of five dollars worth of guano 'at least doubled the outlay in grass; so also the sulphate of ammonia and nitrate of soda; all of which, thickened the grass plants, beside giving a quick growth.'—*Genesee Farmer.*

AN EXQUISITE RETORT.

It is related of Bunyan that in the height of his usefulness as a preacher in and about London, the bishop of the metropolis had a curiosity to see him. The coachman of the bishop was a frequent hearer of Bunyan, and the bishop had told him that whenever, in riding out of town, he should chance to meet Mr. Bunyan, he wished to see and speak with him. One day, as John was driving his lordship in a portion of the suburbs sufficiently retired for the bishop to gratify his curiosity, Bunyan was seen plodding his way, on foot, with his bundle under his arm, going out to preach somewhere in the outskirts. "Your Grace," said John, "here comes Mr. Bunyan." "Ah" said the bishop, "hold up the horses when you overtake him, and let me speak to him." They were soon at his side, the horses were checked, and the bishop bowed, saying, "Mr. Bunyan, I believe." "Yes, your Grace," says Bunyan, courteously response. "Mr. Bunyan," said the bishop, "I am told that you are very ingenious as an interpreter of Scripture; and I have a difficult passage in mind, about which the critics are in dispute, and of which I would be glad to have your view. It is St. Paul's message to Timothy: 'The cloak that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee; and the books, especially the parchments.'" "Well, your Grace," replied Bunyan, "it is allowed, I believe by all that Timothy was a bishop of the primitive Church, and Paul, as all agree was, a traveling preacher. It occurs to me that this may have been designed in future days to teach that in primitive times the bishops were accustomed to wait upon the traveling preachers; whereas, in our day the bishops ride in their coaches, and the traveling preachers, like Paul, are 'minded to go afoot.'

THE LAST DOLLAR.

I received, a few days ago, in course of business, says a correspondent of the *Observer*, a small parcel of bills. Turning them over occasionally I noticed on the back of one of them a superscription, and read with no slight emotion the following, full of pathos and impressiveness:—'P. Halways, last dollar; the rest has been spent in rum.' The writing is a clear flowing business hand. I know nothing of the name or history of the writer, but what a text the simple language affords for a temperance lecturer.

The words are calculated to gnaw like a fiery serpent into the conscience of the rum-seller. To what a story of woe, of suffering and degradation may this be the index. They evidently prove an anguish of spirit and a conviction of error; may we not hope they may be an evidence of contrition and of a restoration to 'a right mind.' A history of the progress of the vice here unfolded would probably reveal a long catalogue of domestic sorrows—a picture of a wife and children famishing, and a fall perhaps from wealth or respectability. What woe, what sorrow, what contentions, what babbling, what wounds mark'd and embittered the descent. And for what purpose was the last dollar expended? Did it go to supply a suffering family with bread, or was it also spent to furnish the last drop in his cup of woe and guilt?

A YOUNG LADY'S REFERENCE.—Ask mamma!'

A Parson reading the funeral service at the grave, forgot the sex of the deceased and asked one of the mourners in Emeraldom, 'Is this a brother or a sister?' 'Neither,' replied Pat, 'only a cousin.'

MEDICAL.—We have made a great step towards the discovery of what is 'good' for a disorder when we have found what is bad for it. Folks troubled with indigestion will please copy the prescription.

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THOS. J. GURNIN & Co.
St. Therese Street
Montreal, May 18th, 1857 g3

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Restoring Lost Sight & Hearing,

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TORONTO, June 8th, 1857. g13-ly

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FOR 1858.

Fourth Volumn.

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L. J. HERSON, CORRESPONDING EDITOR.

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