

Poetry.

A HARVEST SONG.

The toil of the day is ended,
The night is at her noon,
And the harvest song swells blithely up
Beneath the harvest moon.
Then tread a quicker measure,
And chant a louder strain;
With a dance and song, the day prolongs,
That brings the golden grain.

From out the distant mountain
Comes the voice of the cascade;
And the nearer gleam of its silver stream
Makes glad the silent glade.
Through all the shadowy forest
Is heard the fall of leaves;
And the timid have treasur'd stealthily
Among the nodding sheaves.

And now on every hill side,
The purple vantage glows,
As when a deeper radiance falls
From daylight at its close.
No time is it for sadness,
Despondency, or fear,
When autumn comes in gladness
To crown the fruitful year.

Dear is the pleasant leaf time,
When all is soft around—
When frost imprisons rivulets
Are melting into sound.
And dear, too, is the season
When spring and summer meet—
When the woods are faint with odours,
And the hills are dim with heat.

But spring is but for pastime,
And summer but for show,
While autumn like the crowned king,
Has riches to bestow.
So he shall be the monarch
Of all the shining year;
And a crown shall wear, and a sceptre bear
Of fruits and the golden year.

Wit and Humor.

MARRIAGE.—In marriage, as in war, it is permitted to take advantage of the enemy.

A VULGAR ERROR.—That "the returning officer" must always be a colonel, or at least a captain, on leave of absence from a foreign station.—*Punch*.

A YOUNG DANDY, who sported an enormous moustache, asked a lady what she thought of his looks. "Why," said she, "you look as if you had swallowed a squirrel, and left the tail sticking out of your mouth."

To preserve the flowers of a nosegay let a good spoonful of charcoal powder be added to the water, and the flowers will last as long as they would on the plant without any need of changing the water or taking any trouble at all.

The announcement in London of a new mounted artillery volunteer corps, to be composed of authors and literary men, has given rise to sundry witcisms at the clubs. It is said that the "report" will be favourable, that they will guard the "magazines" well, and appear to great advantage at "reviews."

On one occasion Rockville was coming along the street awf' ful, who he met in what he took to be a man, but which was a pump. Round it he jumped with his face to it, hoping that it would step aside; but at last tired of his dancing, he stopped, and, balancing himself on his pins, exclaimed, "I've tried, lad, to pass you on a'sides, saw me, my cantin' man, you man o' em try and pass me."

A CANDIDATE for a Scotch burgh, when canvassing, did his best to secure the good graces of the electors wives. In one house he kissed the guidewife on the cheek, slipping at the same time a few guineas into the hand which had modestly been extended to receive them. The woman, however, was so tickled by the sight of the yellow pieces the matron enthusiastically called to the candidate, as he withdrew, "Kiss my dochter, too, sir!"

EXCELLENCE OF SOWENS.—A German at present travelling in the Highlands, west of Callander, has made some very interesting discoveries—among others, that "sowens" is a very superior food. Having partaken of this, to him, delicious pudding, he inquired of the attendant how it was generally used—what class of people eat of it. When told by the attendant that sowens was food used most by servants, the surprise of the German was evidently great, for he rejoined, in the best English at hand, "If the case were his, that he would keep de sowens for his own self, and make de servants take you damn hard rugg at the beef."

SIR BENJAMIN BRODIE'S CURE FOR STRENG-LESSNESS.—I mentioned to Sir Benjamin that I was suffering from sleepless nights, and asked if there was any remedy for tis. He said the best was open air with exercise. He doubted whether there was any other; the nerves gained strength in an out-of-door life, and nature would give the relief of sleep to the body when sufficiently fatigued by exercise. He had known a remarkable case of a young man of fortune, who in his prosperous days was restless and sleepless. He ran through his fortune, and reduced to the last shift for a livelihood, he became a stone-breaker on the roads. In this condition he was recognised by some of his former acquaintances. They were greatly shocked, and combined to subscribe a sum of money enough to relieve him from present necessity, and went to him with this free offering, and suggestions for a different mode of life. But he declined the gift, saying, "Thank you; I am happy and healthy now. I sleep all night, and I work all day; and I prefer to stay as I am." "This," said Brodick, "goes rather like a mortal talk out of my store of fiction, but it is a fact, within the sphere of my actual knowledge."—*Recollections of Sir Benjamin Brodick in Fraser's Magazine*.

FRENCH BUTTER MAKING.—It is well known that cream may be converted into butter by simply being buried in the ground, but it is not generally known that this mode is in common use in Normandy and some other parts of France. The process is as follows: The cream is placed in a linen bag of moderate thickness, which is carefully secured and placed in a hole in the ground, about a foot and a half deep; it is then covered up and left for 24 or 25 hours. When taken out the cream is very hard, and only requires beating for a short time with a wooden mallet, after which a half a glass of water is thrown upon it, which causes the butter-milk to separate from the butter. If the quantity of cream to be converted into butter is large, it is left more than 25 hours in the ground. In winter, when the ground is frozen, the operation is performed in a cellar, the bag being well covered up with sand. Some persons place the bag containing the cream within a second bag, in order to prevent the chance of any taint from the earth. The system saves labor, and is stated to produce a larger amount of butter than churning, and of excellent quality, and is, moreover, said never to fail.—*Journal of the Society of Arts*.

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