In a Cumbervale farm kitchen a woman was busily getting supper. A shout floated from the pike looping the base of the hill, and a barefooted girl ran from the rain-barrel to the open door to tell her mother that Steve was at the gate holding up a letter. She put her gourd dipper on the sill and hurried down.

"It's from Lem," she said, return ing to her mother, waiting upon the step, "an' it mus' be an awful little one from th' feel."

The son's note deepened the harassed look that often comes to the faces of farm wives at the close of a busy day. She gave it to Ella who slowly spelled it out with her forefinger tracing the words.

Steve had put his horse away and now came through the side gate, Mrs. Judd inquired whether the letter had not come to the post office that morning, and when he had answered "yes," asked him to fetch her husband from the field. The farmer soon came and she handed him the note, saying "Lem's comin' home."

"So he is," he echoed, after reading the note. "It ain't his week's leave yet, is it?"

"No, he wrote he'd be here f'r a week in August. If he came up on th evening train he'll be here before

She shaded her eyes and looked along the visible stretch of pike.

"I do b'lieve he's comin' now," she said. "There's someone walkin' an Lem 'd have t' walk if he didn't get a lift."

Ella ran down to the road and the father limped after her. He seemed to be carrying a burden. A glance at the house and over the farm would have shown what the burden was.

The mother waited in the doorway. her thin face changing from expectation to apprehension. The three presently came up the path, carrying a satchel and several parcels. Lemuel was none ever well. I've gouged y'u at the me to come back to my place at once." a stalwart, handsome fellow. He had discarded the slouch hat, shirting, jeans and cowhide boots, usually worn by the farmers, for more fashionable fence.' clothes and a new look substituted the umn before.

Seeing only gladness in her brother's uv us does, me f'r one." return, the little girl danced about, unmindful that his half-bashful greeting gave substance to the mother's mother an' th' Martins. A man in fears. The father leaned against the town told me th' contractors in rain-barrel, as if he kept himself up blame y'u f'r givin' the' figgers uv with an effort.

questioning even a member of the fam- an' that y'u got big money f'r it." for Lemuel's return. This was not be- face. cause Steve and two other "hands" former made several attempts to re- y'u'll ever get that letter." er do? I hope the confounded letter on the horses.

vigorous use of his knife. Later in the evening when Judd went ly. "She believes I'm guilty." out for a last look at the stock, Lemuel stood at the kitchen door while his a man or woman in all this part uv need do is to give me directions and mother wearily performed the closing th' valley that 'd b'lieve Ez. Judd's try to get well. We won't mention the tasks of the day. Amid the noises of son 'd do sich a thing, an' least uv all city again." the city he had often thought of the Cic'ly Martin. She's th' cleverest girl rasp of the crickets and the gurgle of in all Cumbervale, an' she's ag'in y'u it, Steve declared that "keepin a tight the frogs as music, but there was now 'cause y'u've no thoughts f'r anything rein on a hurror was wo'se'n breakin' a discord in the summer nocturn. He but ——. Lookahere, Lem. This farm a colt; and w'en Lem's mother cried in the Celestian moral code—by the old

mother."

I knowed you aint dishonest."

father with any more of the facts. Get that letter out uv y'ur head an' a spurt forward and not a farmer in thumb since he was 4 years of age, They're hard enough for me to bear. y'u'll see w'y it's going' down All I want you to know is that I've He caught Lemuel by the shoulder, nection with a sale bill or an auctionlost my place and will be home for turned him around with an easy move- eer. awhile. They'll write me a letter if ment of his brawny arm, and pointthey find out I wasn't to blame, and ing, said,-

they will find it out before long." ily from the hearth, from which she y'u don' take off y'ur city coat, Lem was sweeping dust with a turkey wing Judd, an' help to run this farm, there'll into a pan. Then she rose painfully, be another stone over there afore long.

that father is-" ly upon the bricks.

"Father,' said Lemuel, when he came say, an' I don' care f'r th' odds.' in, "I've told mother that I lost my He leaped on his horse and clattered will stay at home for a while."

tern door blew out the flame, and set the evening sky. He had not noticed the lantern upon the floor. He rose, before that the left gable of the formpressing his side as if he had a stitch. er had sagged and that the latter Then he walked over to the blue man- needed reshingling. The decay that was tel, hung a key upon a nail driven in- now visible all over the place was not to it, went to the sink, took a drink an illusion of the twilight from a tin bucket, put the dipper back | He remembered now that he had ofinto it; then turned to his son. Cum- ten seen the farmers look up the hill

discussion by timid stages. home again, Lem, but-but I'm afeared | tion that the old Judd place was going you wont feel at home. It aint city- down. In fancy he saw large bills, fied here, an' it aint a bit like it used with a display top line, "The Judd t' be. We're sort-sort o' played out, Farm for Sale," followed by the pic-Lem-me an' mother. We're workin' ture of a farm-house, and an enumertoo hard, I expect. We need help on ation of the carriage and plow horses, the farm, but w'en I say that, I don' milch cows and farm inplements. He mean that you'll be asked t' do any could almost hear the sale crier upon work. Y'u needn' be afeared o' that. | the court house pavement on a Satur-Y'u never did like farmin', an' y'u've day aftergoon ringing his bell and sogot more above it in th' city. We'll liciting bids from the calculating crowd get along somehow, I reckin'."

seemed to fall suddenly upon him and he caught the corner of the sink and waited, while the mother stopped her tired wisping with the turkey wing and looked up at her son. He, however, had his eyes and thoughts far away in - and did not see his father's weakness nor think of his relation to

like farm drudgery, and never will. I helplessly in her hands. can't be contented in it. I must get ble will soon blow over."

farmer afore you went t' --- so it's th' doctor?" no use talkin' it all over again. Try He ran to the barn and bridled a

The matter was not again discussed whipping the horse. welfare of the farm.

He renewed his acquaintance with the steadiness of a matron. Cicely Martin, who was acknowledged | The doctor who came with Steve was variably accompanied by a vast reto be the "likeliest" girl of the com- noted throughout the whole section of munity. The Judd farm adjoined her | the valley for his tongue as well as his father's. His calls, however, ceased ab- treatment. When he had brought ruptly, and he found some attraction Judd to consciousness and had given

a talkative fellow, and enjoyed a joker's | ing other than physical troubles. license of blunt speech.

"I'm mighty glad y'u've came hum, he asked bluntly. Lem." was one of his characteristic prods at the table. "Y'u kin notice th' improvement in th' farm a mile attack is not very serious, but it's a away. They was people hereabout as varning. I'll expect you to see that came back. It'll soon be th' brag farm sponsible for the consequences." uv th' vycinity. But there's one thing | With a succession of characteristic I'm mighty consarned about, Lem. I'm sniffs he was off as busily as he had afeared y'u'll overdo y'urself an' then come.

ting upon the fence looking for him th' wo'st time," wistfully. One evening when he ask- Lemuel read the few typewritten ed if a letter had come for him, instead lines and crumbled the paper nervously. of answering "no," as usual, Steve dis- "Are they still ag'in y'u yet, Lem?" mounted, led the horse to the fence, Steve asked.

and saidtable afore all th' fo'ks an' y'u've "I'm-I'm glad f'r y'u, Lem,' the

ence t' me."

"Oh, y'u needn't get huffy. I can't y'ur answer at once so nobody else wholesome one which had shone upon hold in no longer, an' I ain't goin' to. his face when he left home the aut- You think us fo'ks don' know w'at | trouble y'u got into in th' city. Some bed. His hands were shaking and his

"You know it?" "Yes, an' so does y'ur father an' er?" he asked. a bid t' another c'ntractor so's he t' me an' mother," he answered, "an'

ily upon critical matters. At the sup- "And you believe I did it," Lemuel per table no one hinted at the reason said, striding toward him with white say a word t' get you t' stay. I c'n press Dowager has a palace near by.

"No, I don't Lem; true as I live I ate with them, for family affairs are don' b'lieve y'u'd do sich a thing. But often discussed before the "help." The things looks ag'in y'u an I don' expect Lem."

how the crops "was roun' about --- iel Martin and Cicely were upon the who had been standing near, caught and getting an unwilling reply ventur- seat and the spring bed was filled with the corner of Lemuel's coat, and, looked an inquiry as to whether he "had parcels from the town stores. The fathsaw Sam Down's new red waggin in er bade the "time," but the daughhis barn road." Receiving only a brief ter, who was driving, kept her eyes

negative he relapsed into a silent and "I know now why she isn't friendly in my hands, father?" to me any more," Lemuel said, bitter-

"It ain't that at all, Lem. There ain't turned around, and said, "I'm in trou- has b'en th' Judd Farm ever since th' an' Judd hisself kivered his face with Empress Dowager, who practically runs first deed were wrote on it, an' every the bed kivers, I took an' run. An' "I knowed it, Lem. You're face told evenin' y'u've dawdled on this fence, I seen Cicely Martin shake Lem's han' waitin' f'r a letter that'll never come. an' tell him that if ever he done a right "The contractors in ---- blame me It's goin' down as fast as a farm kin, for dishonesty, but I'm not guilty, an' it won't be w'orth raisin' mullen stocks on in a month 'r two. W'ere of the hill and look up to the left, see through the favorable medium of her "I knowed that, too, Lem-I mean are y'ur eyes, Lem Judd? Jes' unhitch 'em t'morruh from ---, an' look Cumbervale famous. When Cicely Mar- Hsu-which means The Illustrious Suc-"There's no use worrying you or at th' house an' th' barn an' th' land. | tin came over to help Lemuel it took | cession-has been under the old lady's

"It ain't to odark yet t' see them "I hope they will," looking up wear- wite stones over there on th' hill. If and continued, "Lem, have you noticed an' th' name on it will be Ezra Judd. P'r'aps y'u'l! be in —— then, an' Judd's heavy step sounded upon the strangers will have t' go onto th' Judd sill, and the little woman knelt quick- Farm, an' what in nation 'll y'ur mothnever does come. That's all I got to

place through no fault of mine, and away. Lemuel turned and crossed his for him. arms on the top fence rail. The house The father slowly opened the lan- and barn were sharply outlined against

bervale folks approach an important and shake their heads as they drove by. He knew now that it must be "We'll be vurry glad t' have y'u "common talk," throughout the secand the farmers telling one another A sense of his insufficient strength how the farm had come under the hammer. He tore a sliver from the rai and went home chewing it.

Two evenings later he returned from the creek with his rod and line. The 'cork" had bobbed unheeded in the ripples all afternoon, for a subject had floated like it in the current of his thoughts. His mother ran from the kitchen door to meet him. She was 'You're right, father. I never did very pale and was twisting her apron

"Lem th' men has jus' brung fathback to the city, an' I hope this trou- er in from th' upper field. He fainted there. He's on th' bed an' don' know "Vurry well, Lem; vurry well. We any of us. Would you care t' take agreed that you wasn't meant f'r a one of th' horses an' ride t' town f'r

t' feel contented while y'u have t' be horse. His mother's hint of unwillinghere. We'll let y'u do jes as y'u please. ness to help in this emergency made He hung his straw hat upon a hook him urge the animal to its utmost. A very kind friends who have come to and lighted a candle. His hand trem- mile from the house he met Steve combled warningly in doing both, but only | ing home. He rapidly told him what the mother saw this as she rose from | had happened and asked him to go for the hearth and put the wing upon the the doctor so that he might return to his father. The man turned about, Son of Heaven and Brother of the Sun.

and no one interfered with Lemuel's | Returning home Lemuel found his freedom. He rambled about the coun- mother bewildered and he assumed the try, sometimes fishing, sometimes hunt- care of his father. Daniel Martin and ing. Occasionally he went into the Cicely, who had been told of Judd's up in front of all the houses, and strips field and did light work, but he show- illness by Steve, came in to assist. The ed no interest in the harvest or in the daughter was a typical Cumbervale girl and she took charge of Mrs. Judd with

in the county town three miles away. directions for the night, Lemuel dis- hole in the matting is liable to be Steve watched him sharply. He was covered that he was skilful in diagnos-

"You are young Judd, aren't you?"

"Yes, I am." "Well, I want to tell you that this

One of Steve's duties was to ride to he came in after helping the doctor as a London flat. These inclose a town late in the afternoon for the start. "Here's th' mis'able letter. It mail and necessary supplies. Upon his come this evenin'. If I'd darst I'd a way back he often found Lemuel sit- kep' it. Things always does come at

"No, no letter has came an' I hope away the figures of the bid and want an' mother has never b'lieved you done are known as the Lemuel sprang angrily from the it. Now, y'u c'n go back t' th' city an' be c'ntented. Y'u'd better write gets y'ur place.

Lemuel walked slowly toward the face was set.

"Do you want me to go away, fath-

Judd turned from him and put his arm over his eyes.

Cumbervale folks are backward in c'u'd give a lower bid an' get th' job, that y'u're welcome t' stay as long as y'u want. But y'u can't be c'ntented at th' old home any more, an' I won't be up workin' around t'morruh as ushyal so y'u c'n go without worryin' Me an' mother'll get along somehow,

Mrs. Judd and Cicely Martin came inlieve the situation. He asked Lemuel A wagon rattled toward them. Dan- to the room from the hallway. Ella, ing up into his face asked:

"Are you goin' away again, Lem?" He took her hand, walked to the bed,

The farmer could not answer, but his look was all that was required. "I'll do my best with it. All you

In 'elling the other "hands" about thing he done it then."

one of the fine farms that have made favorite eumuch, Pitsian-li. Kuang the vicinity thinks of it now in con-

AN AMATEUR DETECTIVE AGENCY

Sweet Girl-Pa, the house next door was robbed last night. Pa-Mercy! Next door?

this block within a week.

rible! But what can we do? Sweet Girl-I was thinking it might | Hsien Fung. She was at the head of be a good plan for Mr. Nicefello and me to sit up a few nights and watch the Taeping rebellion. She managed

GEMS OF WIT.

The man who tells you he is no fool may be only mistaken.

The barber is the only man who does headwork with his hands. The mercury never gets warm in its efforts to lower the record

It was originally intended to have sheet music sung by the choir. Some men act like hogs and there are others who do not need to act.

The horseless carriage is a novelty, but the cowless milk wagon is a chest-REVENGE.

Have you been reading about the

DOWAGER EMPRESS BOSSES TH SON OF HEAVEN.

Kuang Usu Shut Up in His Purple Forbid den City with His Bow and Arrows-The Grand Council, the Ministry of War. the Isung-li-Yamen and the Men Who Constitute Them - Daily Diet of the Brother of the Sun.

There is a young man in Pekin who

would be trembling just now in his

kin if he were only able to realize pro-

perly the danger that is threatened to him and his empire by some of those him dona ferentes. He is the Emperor Kuang Hsu, euphemistically known, among other outrageous titles, as the He is the most secluded monarch on earth. When he appears in public, of modern civilization, and, in spite which is very rarely, matting is hung of cloth are stretched across the alleys and side streets through which the imperial procession must pass. He is intinue of soldiers and an army of cour- and his surroundings. tiers, and the man who peeps around the corner or has his eye fastened to a blinded by a bullet or an arrow. When to go through three sets of wallsbuilding in which he is kept, guarded y'ur father'll hev t'pitch in an' help.' | "See here, Lem," Steve said, when which are sixty feet thick and as tall of which is known as the Imperial City. "No; they have discovered who gave it includes the outside palaces, the pleasure grounds, and the temples of

PURPLE FORBIDDEN CITY.

The walls of this last pen are rigidly of the royal harem, and the thousands of eunuchs who make up the servants, "Y'u know, Lem, how much y'u are sides of a ridge of palaces running from the north to the south. In another part of the inclosure is the sessions. Pekin is a huge city, credited with 1,500,000 inhabitants, but apart from the eunuchs, the toadies, and the women who haunt the Purple Forbidden City, it is doubtful if 5,000 of this vast number have ever set eyes upon the monarch, and among Euand asked, "will you trust the farm ropeans and Americans it is only the Ambassadors who are permitted to

gaze upon his august countenance. Though he is generally credited with the possession of a very ugly temper, which incites him to smash the bric-abrack of his apartments when he cannot have his own way, his efforts at ruling go no further than doing what he is told to do. He is kept in orderthe State show, and who is influenced sometimes by whim working through a thin leaven of diluted statesmanlike feeling, and sometimes by that back-Those who now drive around the base stairs palace intrigue which works when he was chosen to succeed T'ungchi. She supervised his education. She picked out his wives for him, and she makes the ladies of his harem skip today if they don't walk chalk in her presence. Of course she took her own friends when she selected his wives, and she has him so hemmed about with her officials and girls that if he had Sweet Girl-Yes, and the burglars a will of his own he wouldn't know have been in two or three houses on how to use it. The Empress Dowager, who has bossed the Tsung-li-Yamen for Pa-I know it. I know it. It's ter- a generation, is now 63 years old. She was the secondary wife of the Emperor the Empire during a greater part of its affairs during its war with France and she has had more then one taste of Russian diplomacy. She is said to have a mind of her own, and all of the Chanese

RESPECT AND FEAR HER.

She is a stickler as to form, and insists that all business hall be done she really directs what he is to do. She is even more secluded than the Emperor, and when she receives her officials and the Cabinet Ministers her practice is to sit behind a screen while they talk at her through it-unless she has something strong to say to them.

The Emperor is 27, lean, undersized and unhealthy, His features are Tartar as contradistinguished from Chinese; the reigning family being, as every one should know, but probably spots on the sun? asked the young does not, Tartar. He does all his business at night and he sleeps in the day-I'm glad the old thing has a few freck- the morning, after a midnight break- quicker than frequent ebullitions of les himself and can see how he likes it. | fast, when he receives his Cabinet Min- | temper.

sters, who, on being ushered into his presence, go down on their knees and perform the seven faced "Ko-tou"-that is, bump their heads again and again on the floor. They also remain on their knees while before him. Everything about and connected with Kuang Hsu is regulated by law, even to his meals. According to the old Chinese books there must be placed before him laily thirty pounds of meat in a basin and seven pounds boiled into soup. He has a daily allowance of about a pound of hog's fat and butter, and he has the right to order two sheep, two fowls and two ducks, while his drink for the day is restricted to the milk of eighty cows and the steeping of seventy-five parcels of tea. It is probable that is real diet is different, but these are the regulation provisions, and if he deires anything that is not on the menu the board having charge of the imperial table has to be consuited. It is more than doubtful whether his Majesty realizes his exalted situation and his power. He has been hemmed in and fooled all his life. He knows nothing of the recent war, next to nothing of modern warfare. He has never reviewed, and is not capable of reviewing, his army, and his common amusement is to shoot with a bow and arrow. If he ever had in lim the makings of a character they must have been ruined long since by his mode of life

THE SUPREME BODIES which, by the grace of the Empress Dowager and the favorite eunuchs have the direction of the country's affairs, are the Grand Council, the Minhe is at home he is carefully hidden istry of War, and the Tsung-li-Yamen. away in the centre of a big Tartar The first, which is erroneously concity, which is in the centre of the founded with the last, corresponds to Chinese city, at Pekin, and you have our Cabinet, and consists of five members-Prince Kung, the Emperor's uncle, whose principal aim in life now said th' Judd Farm was goin' down, your father doesn't do a stroke of work simply an impossible task for a Europ- appears to be to thwart the Empress but they aint no danger sence y'u've until fall. If he does, you will be re- ean visitor-before you approach the Dowager, with whom he has many stormy scenes; Shih To, better known to us as Prince Li, who has no knowlby eunuchs. First, there are the im- edge of foreign affairs and hates all mense walls of the great Tartar city, "foreign barbarians;" Weng Tung-ho, the Emperor's private tutor, who is equally conspicuous for his dislike of the barbarians, though he is credited large area filled up with the houses of with having taken to the study of for-Tartars and Government buildings, eign affairs since the troubles with Jawhich run round a space the middle pan; Kang Yi, an official who gained his high office by presenting the Emperor, for the purposes of the late war, This has a high wall of gray brick with a large sum of money, which he about six miles in circumference, and had no doubt obtained by extortion of one kind or another, and whose appreciation of modern conditions in warfare may be judged by the fact that the sacred city. The Emperor is kept he prefers bows and arrows to guns, scowled, but it don't make no dff'r- father feebly said from his pillow. "Me inside this, and his exclusive quarters and has ordered that those of his compantes which are provided with the murderous rifle shall use clay bullets, so as to save the expense of laden ones; and Chien Ying-pu, President of the Board of Works, who is singularly free guarded. They inclose the quarters from prejudice against foreigners, in of the Emperor, his family, the ladies spite of the fact that experience has never brought him into proper contact With them. The Ministry of War consists of Prince Kung, President, Prince and include buildings for court cere- Chung, Vice-President, Weng, Tung-ho, monies, which are arranged round the and Jung Lu. With two of these gentlemen we have already made acquaintance. Prince Ching, I Kuang, was promoted from the third to the Emperor himself lives in the north- second order of princes four years ago. western part of the pen and the Em- He has held many offices in the capital, among others that of President of the Tsung-li-Yamen, to which he still belongs, and is reported to be a hall of literary anyss, or the imperial fair-minded man-relatively, that is, library, and in this the Cabinet offi- for he has never been far from home. cers, about whom more anon, hold their Jung Lu is a Manchu, and airs advanced views which are crude. His lengthy connection with the War Department may or may not account for his insistence upon the necessity of show-

A BOLD FRONT

to foreign aggression. The Tsung-li-Yamen consists of Prince Kung, Prince Ching, Weng, Tung-ho, Kang Yi, and Jung Lu, in addition to our estimable old friend, Li Hung Chang and Ching Hsin, a stiff and bigoted nominee of Prince Kung; Ching Li, a very old man from whose mature lips drop words of antiquated wisdom; Hsu Ying-wei, a Cantonese, who was once literary Charcellor in Kansu, but who has remained in Pekin for a good twenty years past; Liao Shaoheng, elder brother of the Governor of Che-Kiang; Chang Yin-huan, who spent twelve years as Minister to the United States, Spain, and Peru, and was Special Ambassador at the diamond jubilee, and Wu Ting-fen, the leader of the Reform party. The men most capable of offering good counsel in the present emergency are the two last named, but Chang Yin-huan is of too low a rank to possess any real influence, and it is stated that Wu Ting-fen despairing of any reform while the country's affairs are in the hands of the prejudiced fossils and corrupt servants, recently applied for two months' leave of absence to repair his ancestral tombs-a preliminary to retirement. In the multitude of counsel offered by these various officials there is much guile but little wisdom, and there is much plotting on the part of each member of the three boards against each and every one of his fellows. Periodically the Empress Dowager comes out, rates them soundly from behind her screen, and if they have done something unusually foolish, boxes all their ears. And between one and another of them the unhappy Son of Heaven comes a crop-

INQUEST ON A HEN.

An analysis of the contents of the gizzard of a hen killed at Opalopolis, through the young Emperor, though N.S.W., revealed one three-penny-bit, one bone overcoat-button, six metal trouser-buttons, two brass-headed tacks, 3-4 in., about 5 dozen metal sprigs (for boots), and sundry opal chips. The old lady suffered no inconvenience, and contributed her daily egg to the breakfast table up to the

DANGERS OF MATRIMONY.

Mrs. De Peck-Since I married you

I am losing all my good looks. Mrs. De Peck-Doctors agree that No, replied the ex-summer girl, but time. He begins his work about 2 in nothing will spoil a woman's beauty