punishment of parricides

rican ports of the Red Sea will play a

estimated as having been worth £2,545,337,000.

low ocean. On the other hand, the idea of an open polar sea, as conceived by Kane, is no longer entertained—that

his fellow men, and yet it is as useless to the world as a diamond in a dead man's hand.

PRACTICAL FARMING.

PLOWING AND HARROWING.

The plow in principle may not have changed much in 2000 years, as has been stated, but individual plows have been greatly improved, so that the draft is much less and the labor for the operator greatly reduced. Scientific principles have been studied, and the plow has been so constructed that the resistance is reduced to a minimum, while doing the work most effectively. The most recent improvement is the self-sharpening plow point, consisting of layers of edges, so that as one wears off a new and sharp edge is presented instead of a dull surface. This makes the draft much easier and saves the bother and expense of re-sharpening. A great variety of implements have been tried as substitutes for the plow, but they have not proven satisfactory under all conditions.

The depth of plowing has been the cause of almost endless controversy. In the corn belt, as a rule moderately deep plowing has given most satisfactory results, all things considered. It is obviously unwise to make any great variation in the depth of which any one field is plowed during one season, for by suddenly lowering the plow two or three inches, a cold raw earth is thrown out on top. This is unsuited to the best development of the plant, and until the air and sun have affected it for a couple of years, it will not be in the best condition. The object of plowing is to get the upper layers thoroughly loosened and pulverized, so that the plant roots can readily penetrate them. The loosened surface acts as a sponge for absorbing and retaining the moisture until needed by the growing crops. It does not matter whether the upper surface be turned or not, nor does it make much difference by what means this breaking or loosening up is accomplished. If shallow plowing and subsoiling will answer the purpose, follow that practice. If, however, this condition cannot be secured except by deep plowing, it usually will pay to plow deep. On very wet low grounds deep plowing is obviously unnecessary, as the retention of moisture does not have to be looked after so carefully. In sandy or very loose soil deep plowing is not essential, as the roots can easily find a passage and the land is in a condition to retain large quantities of water. The above applies more particularly to the preparation of land for wheat and corn. Shallower plowing will answer very well for oats and grass seeds. Three inches is usually sufficient for these later crops, while for corn and wheat six and seven give best result.

At one time the various riding and wheeled plows were not universally liked, as they were considered horse-killers. This heavy draft feature has been eliminated somewhat, and as the work is done better and as horses are so cheap, it is certainly advisable to buy them. Human strength is so much more valuable than that of the horse that it would pay to have an extra animal or two rather than exhaust the farmer or his hired man.

The preparation of the land just before planting demands more and more attention, as the soil becomes less productive and droughts more frequent and severe. Ordinarily the cornfield is harrowed until the surface is level, little attention being given to the condition of the soil below the surface. With several seasons of severe drought, however, it has become necessary to so pulverize and compact the plowed portion that large air spaces do not remain, allowing the excessive penetration of air and consequent detrimental evaporation. This thorough preparation is best accomplished by means of disk or acme harrows, ordinary toothed harrows and drags. The first named penetrate much deeper than the ordinary harrow, break up clods and eliminate air spaces. If the field is disked once or twice, then harrowed with a heavy smoothing or straight toothed harrow, it will usually be in first-class condition. A drag will do much to pulverize clods on the surface and compact the soil, but it does not pulverize the lower layers of the plowed portion. Rolling has much the same effect and is a valuable aid when the weather is quite dry, but during the wet season it may do injury by compacting the surface and causing the top layer to bake. Evaporation then takes place very rapidly and the crop is seriously injured at the outset. As soon as the grain, if it be corn, appears above the surface, cultivation must begin and the upper layers be kept in a finely pulverized condition, so that they may act as a mulch.

It has been demonstrated during the past few years that the more complete the preparation the better the crop. The cultivation then can be greatly reduced, and the results more satisfactory. Many a farmer will say that he cannot spend so much time in preparing his soil, and that such attention to the more scientific methods cannot be given. This is a fallacy which must be abandoned as the years go by, for the changing conditions demand more thorough work and greater attention to details. During the great drouth of '94, the farmer who thoroughly prepared his and had a fair crop and in many cases a good one, while the man who neglected thorough preparation reaped a small harvest.

METHODS OF MILKING.

To get good results from a cow it is necessary to keep her in a quiet, contented condition at the time of milking. This end is accomplished best by always feeding the cow at that time.

Many do not want cows to eat then, claiming they will give attention to giving down milk better if not fed, but if they give attention I think they are more likely to give it in the wrong direction, towards holding up the flow. But, whatever plan is followed, a constant and regular method will prove more satisfactory than irregularity.

Rapid milking may be as injurious as slow milking. A moderate, careful person will get all the milk there is. In cases of disease of, or accident to, the udder, great care must be exercised not to worry the cow, and with this care, and not allowing double time for milking, the worst case of ordinary udder troubles can be handled. Always speak to a cow before sitting down to her as, if she is startled, her only refuge is to jump or kick.

SEEDING TO CLOVER.

Hords Dairyman gave a correspondent some advice on seeding to clover, first, without a nurse crop; second, with oats; third, on fall rye.

The amount of seed required will be the same in either case, and this will vary according to quality of seed, from twelve to twenty pounds per acre. It is a most excellent plan to test the seed before sowing, by putting a (counted) hundred separate seeds in fine earth or between flannel cloths, keep moist and warm and note how many seeds grow. If 90 per cent. of the seed sprout, eight pounds to the acre will probably suffice, but more will do no harm. The best way to sow clover seed is to get one of the inexpensive broadcast seeders, that are carried from the shoulders and are worked by hand, either with a crank or bow. These are usually kept in stock by dealers in agricultural implements and frequently by hardware merchants. Sow clover early in the spring, as early as the ground can be worked. Sometimes a good catch is obtained, on ground seeded to rye or wheat in the fall, by sowing the clover on a light fall of snow, or in the early morning of those spring days, when the ground is alternately freezing and thawing, but it is surer to wait a little, until the surface will bear dragging, and then sow the seed and go over the ground once or twice (according to circumstances) with a slanting toothed harrow. When sown with spring grain, or by itself it is better to use the harrow for covering than to depend upon a rain storm. When sown without a nurse crop, (robber-crop would be a more appropriate name) there is a probability that the quicker growing weeds will spring up and check the clover. If this should be the case, go over the ground with a mower, having the cutting bar raised high enough to miss most of the clover and clip the greater part of the weeds. If the weed crop is so prolific that when left on the ground, it will smother the young clover, it must be raked off.

GOOD ADVICE.

Our advice first, last and all the time is to go into no wild-cat creamery schemes without first having given the matter a good and intelligent sifting. We are continually hearing of jobs of this kind being put upon farming communities by irresponsible parties who care nothing for the success of the undertaking beyond getting a good fat rake-off for their own pockets. Where there is any doubt as to the proper course to pursue in matters of this kind there should be no hesitation about getting the counsels of reliable about getting the consuls of reliable men who are in position to give advice that is worth something. It is said that talk is cheap, and so it is. It doesn't cost the fellow much who does the talking, but it is often a very dear commodity to the people who listen too long and well.

ONE IN A HUNDRED.

I am a model husband. My wife couldn't lay her hands on another one like me in a fortnight. When the baby cries at night, I get up and fix him and put him back to sleep. We have been married three years and we have the sweetest little baby boy in the world. I never cause my wife any trouble. When she is all tired and worn out I just say: "Come now, old sweetheart, go lie down, and let me finish this job." We have a great number of little dresses for Wendel, and I know where they are kept and how to get at them.

My wife's father is a well-to-do farmer, and I like my wife's mother. I never see any other woman who can walk in little better than my wife, or who looks just a little sweeter. I wouldn't marry the best woman on earth unless I thought she filled the bill for perfection, from my standpoint of judgment. I thought my wife did, and she does. When she gets a biscuit turned over a few times between her hands and puts it in the pan, I know the biscuits are going to be exactly right. No doubt about it. We have no drip coffee pot, but she makes the best coffee I ever saw, and has the commonest kind of an old tin coffee pot. She has a majestic bearing, too. Her feet set just exactly as a perfect woman's feet set. Her head could be carried no better if she tried for a hundred years.

When I want to find out if anything is right or not, I just get it before her mind and figure on her judgment. She hits it every time. Don't ask me how she does it. There is no spittoon around the house. I know where the peg for my hats, and every time I take it off in the house I hang it on this peg. My coat has a peg, too, and there is where my coat is found when not on my back. There is no club on earth like my wife and Wendel. She is the outside guard and the inside guard. She is the light in the east, and the intellect in the west. She is my bright and morning star. She can smell a loose button a hundred yards, and she has a way of noticing the little specks on my frock coat lapel, as she used to before we were married. She loves me and Wendel. I don't find anybody that suits me half as well as she does, sweet and gentle from morning to night. When I want to be cross she won't let me. When I get heartless and the last speck of brotherly love is oozing out of me, just one touch of her presence stops that disposition. All in all, my wife is O.K. and I am a model husband.

THE FARMER AND THE TREASURE.

One day a farmer who lived for years in peace and quietness and was well spoken of by all who knew him, found a pot of gold as he was digging in a field. In great rejoicing he carried the treasure to his house and told his wife the news, and in a day his good luck was known to a hundred people. His wife promptly decided to buy a piano and have a new house, and when the old man didn't think much of this scheme she upbraided him for his selfishness and went about in the sulks. His three sons decided they would blossom out as Jim-dandies and work no more, and his two daughters howled for diamonds and silks. Uncle Josiah also wanted him to give $500 to the African heathen; he was asked to establish a foundlings' home; his mother-in-law demanded a brick house and new carpets, and his ten sisters and brothers arrived and wanted the spoutlin' to make a tour of Europe. Neighbors who had loved him now referred to him as a stingy old varmint, and men who had asked him to be a candidate for Town Supervisor sent him word that they'd snow him under if he ever ran for office. He forthwith hired himself without friends and mixed up in a score of broils, and taking the gold to the river he dumped it in and exclaimed:

"That over which I rejoiced has brought me only sorrow, and often my pictur' if I want any more of it!"

Moral:

Riches do not bring happiness, but he ought to have licked the whole crowd and invested that money in six per cent. mortgages.

CARE OF RINGS.

It is never wise to wet rings that have stones in them. Of course, all rings need to be cleaned from time to time, and diamonds, rubies, emeralds and sapphires will stand washing with soap. Turquoise and seed pearls will change color if subjected to any such treatment. The majority of pearl rings have not the full round perfect pearl, which alone will stand wetting. Almost all pearls have at least a tiny pin prick somewhere on their surface, and this, like a spot of decay in a tooth, will admit substances which will damage them. It is therefore usual to take off one's rings when washing the hands. This is how many valuable jewels are lost. An old-fashioned but excellent preventive of forgetfulness on such occasions is to put the ring into your mouth or at least between your lips. Then you will remember to slip it on your finger after drying your hands.

HIS ULTIMATUM.

To one of two brothers who keep a store on Main, street an old employee came last night.

If your brother doesn't take back what he said to me yesterday I'm going to quit, announced the man, with dignity.

What did he say? asked the other brother.

He said that the firm wouldn't require my services any longer.

About the House.

HAVE BEAUTIFUL PANSIES.

Pansy seed sown now in pots or boxes in a warm room or hotbed, will, if properly cared for produce blooming plants all summer. The seed should be scattered very thinly and covered not more than one-eighth of an inch deep, then pressed down with a piece of board and kept moderately moist all the time. When the plants are large enough to be handled the, should be pricked off about two inches apart, and when danger of severe frost is over, planted outdoors about 12 inches apart each way in a position where they are sheltered from the midday sun. In dry weather they require a good deal of water, and an occasional watering with liquid manure will help them wonderfully. All faded flowers must be cut off at once else they will produce seed and detract a good deal of strength from the plants. With pansies, as well as many other plants, the oftener the flowers are cut off, the more new ones will be produced. For early spring blooming, the seed should be sown in August outdoors in well-prepared seed beds. During hot dry weather it is best to shade the seed from the direct rays of the sun until they have germinated, which will be in about ten or twelve days. The soil can hardly be made too rich and deep for pansies.

DRESS PRETTILY AT HOME.

A prettily dressed woman about the house is a joy and a blessing. There are so many dainty low-priced things for a woman to wear indoors that there is but small excuse when one is shabbily dressed at home. "We never have company. No one ever sees me except my boys and my husband," argues one wife. Even so, the outside world seeing you is of very small moment. The good opinion of husband and children who are quite as fastidious as strangers would be, is worth an infinite amount of trouble.

So many women say they cannot work when "dressed up." No doubt that is very true, simply because the feeling of consciousness of having on a new frock makes them feel stiff an awkward. And yet there are women who will wear the daintiest sort of house gowns, with never a rent or a soil, and still execute all the little duties the good housewife is expected to do. Anything that washes well and irons easily is suitable for such wear.

What is fresher or sweeter looking than a woman in a clean gingham or calico dress and a clean apron—dark one in the morning and light or white for afternoons?

HOME-BREWED BEER.

Home-brewed beer is a delicious drink in summer, especially if ice is at hand, or if there are cool wells or cellars in which the bottles can be kept. In filling the bottles great care must be exercised that they are not filled too full or they will burst when fermentation sets in. Fill up just to the neck.

To make home-brewed beer, proceed as follows: Measure four teacupfuls of brown sugar, four tablespoonfuls of ground ginger, and a two-quart basinful of fresh hops. Place the hops and ginger together, cover well with water using three or four quarts, and boil for an hour. Then strain, pour the liquor into a kettle, add half a cupful of molasses, and boil for half an hour. Put the hops, ginger and sugar in a crock holding four gallons, put in the hot liquor, fill the crock with water, and add a cupful of yeast. Set the liquor in a warm place for eight or ten hours to ferment; then skim and bottle, tying the corks securely. Beer bottles with rubber corks are best. In two days, the beverage will be ready for use. Be careful in opening, as the beer will be "heady." Beer made in this way will keep all the year round.

A PRETTY DESIGN.

The accompanying design of sweet peas for a cup and saucer is charming if done in violet and gold. After sketching the design in India Ink, fill in the surface first with a pale tinting of violet of gold, not in an even grounding tint, but showing faintly the brush marks and letting it shade from a deep tone to a paler. When this is finished dry it in a hot oven until perfectly hard so you can work over it. Then with violet of gold moistened slightly with turpentine wash in the

sweet pea petals, adding a bit of black with the violet to make a grayish violet for the conventionalized stems and the leaflike figure that finishes the edge. After you have done as much work on it as is possible without smudging, send it to be fired. When it returns you can work over it further adding a touch of deeper shadow where it is not intense enough. Then use your gold, carefully outlining the sweet peas, the stems and the border, with a touch here and there whenever you think a bit of gilding will improve it. Gild the handles and edges, only be very careful in using gold that it does not come in contact with unfired color, else it will turn black and unsightly.

HOME.

What is there in the strife of earth,—
Ah, what in all we get, he asks,
That after all is better worth
Than just home-coming after tasks?
'Tis this for which the heavens rise,
The sun shines and the rains descend,
For this the nations agonize
And laws are made and tyrants end.
The busy medley of the world,
Where myriads work and idlers roam,
In order ranged, in chaos whirled,
Exists—to make a human home.

SOME GOOD RECIPES.

Cranberry Jelly.—Wash one quart of the berries, put them in a granite kettle, add one pint of water, cover closely, and boil ten minutes. Turn the berries into a colander and press them through with a potato masher. Return the juice to the kettle, add one pound of sugar, and boil rapidly ten or fifteen minutes until it forms a jelly.

Brown Betty.—Butter a deep pudding dish, and put a layer of chopped apples at the bottom; sprinkle with sugar, a few bits of butter, and a little cinnamon; cover with bread crumbs, then more apples. Proceed in this manner until you have used two cups of chopped apples and one cup of crumbs, having a layer of crumbs at the top. Cover closely, and bake threequarters of an hour in a moderate oven; then uncover and brown quickly. Eat warm with cream and sugar or sweet sauce, prepared as follows:

Sauce.—Heat one pint of sweet cream slowly in a vessel set in a saucepan of boiling water, stirring often. When scalding hot, remove from the fire and put in four heaping tablespoonfuls of sugar and a teaspoonful of nutmeg, stir three or four minutes, and add the whites of two eggs, beaten stiff, or one whole egg, also beaten, may be used if preferred. Mix thoroughly, add one teaspoonful of extract of lemon or vanilla. Set a bowl containing the sauce back in the pan containing the hot water, and leave it there until the pudding is served, to keep it hot. This is an excellent sauce for almost any pudding.

Apple Pie.—Pare and slice the apples and stew them. Mash smooth, add sugar enough to make it very sweet, and flavor with nutmeg. Line your pie pans with paste and bake until done. Fill the crust with the apple sauce and spread over it a meringue made by whipping to a stiff froth the whites of two eggs for each pie, sweeten with a tablespoonful of sugar for each pie, and flavoring with rose water or vanilla. Set in the oven a few minutes until the meringue becomes a light brown on top. Canned peaches may be mashed fine, and used instead of apples.

Dried Fruit.—Apples, peaches, pears and apricots are delicious when cooked in the oven. Let them soak all night; pour off the water and put the fruit in an earthen bowl or granite pan. Add one pound of sugar to a pound of the dried fruit, and water enough to cover it to the depth of two or three inches. Cover closely and leave it exposed to gentle baking heat all the morning, or until the fruit is quite tender. The juice will be a thin jelly and the flavor of the fruit will be better than if cooked on top of the stove.

Rice and Tapioca Pudding.—Soak half a cup of tapioca in a cup of milk three hours; wash half a cup of rice, and soak in another cup of milk the same length of time. Add threefourths of a cup of sugar to another quart of milk, put the rice and tapioca in this, flavor with cinnamon and bake in a slow oven two hours. Eat cold. An easily prepared dessert for washing or ironing day.

FAMILIAR SAYINGS.

The Origin of Some of These Dates Back Many Years.

"To be in a brown study" is a corruption of brow study, a study requiring much thought and contraction of the brows.

"As dead as a herring" is an expression arising from the fact that herring die very quickly after being taken out of the water.

"Please the pigs" is a corruption of "please the pyx," a receptacle used by clergy of the Roman faith to contain the host or sacred wafers.

"To catch a weasel asleep" is indicative of the extreme vigilance of these animals, who are disturbed and made wide awake by any sound, however slight.

"To knock the spots out of anything" is an illusion to the traditional skill of Western cowboys who can rifle shot a man who would shoot the spots out of a card held between the fingers of a friend.

"To throw up the sponge" is borrowed from the prize ring, it being the custom, when a prize fighter had been worsted, for his second to throw up the sponge used for cleaning him off.

"Do at Rome as Romans do" is dated to no less an authority than St. Augustine, who advised a doubtful about the propriety of a custom observed at Rome by a proselyte did.

"Tell that to the marines" is the contempt which, even to-day, professional sailors express for the soldiers, who form a portion of the complement of a man-of-war.

The term "blue stocking" dates as far back as the year 1400, at which date, in ice a society of literary ladies and gentlemen were organized, the dress of which as a distinguishing mark wore blue stockings.

"As tight as Dick's hatband" originated in the days of Richard Cromwell, son of the great Oliver, who, in the humorous parlance of the time, "had the crown so tight that he could not put it on his head.

"By the holy poker" is a popular abbreviation of an oath which became common during the Crusades. "By the holy sepulcher" was in the mouths of all Englishmen during the two centuries that the Crusades went on.

"As deaf as an adder" is an illusion to the fact that the hearing of many kinds of serpents is far from good, owing to the circumstance that their auditory apparatus is covered by the outer skin of epidermis, which is shed every season.

"The dog watch," a term used by sailors, was once the dodge watch, a short watch being introduced between those longer in duration, in order that too great an amount of work should not be put upon the same men in the course of the day.

"To haul over the coals" recalls the former legal custom of trial by fire, the accused walking barefoot over a bed of glowing coals, and his innocence or guilt being deduced from the condition of his feet after a certain number of days elapsed.

"Post haste" recalls the days when everybody who was in a hurry and could afford the expense traveled post; that is, with relays of horses at the end of every five or ten miles of the journey, the fresh animals thus enabling greater speed to be made.

"You whistle for it" originates in the sailor superstition of whistling to raise the wind. As a great deal of whistling was sometimes necessary when a calm prevailed, the expression to denote failure to achieve an end came into common speech.

The expression of "a grass widow" has several fanciful explanations, but is most probably a corruption of the French expression, veuve de grace, a widow by grace or courtesy; that is, a woman who has left her husband or has been deserted by him.

"To kiss the Blarney stone" is an allusion to the famous stone in the castle of Blarney. The lord of this fortress being required to deliver it up to the English, made so many ingenious excuses for delay that he was finally permitted to retain his castle for his cleverness.

"As right as a trivet" is a piece of household slang. The trivet was a rod placed across the fireplace for the purpose of suspending from it a pot over the fire. It was necessary that the trivet should be exactly horizontal, or disaster to the pot and its contents would result.

"To catch a tartar" recalls a story, told at least two centuries ago, of an Irish exile in the service of the Austrian Government who was captured by a Tartar horseman, and who shouted back to his Captain that he had caught a Tartar, but that the fellow refused to be brought into camp.

"There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip" is as old as the days of Ancaeus, who one day having filled a cup, set it down before drinking, on the information that a wild boar was ravaging his field. Taking his spear he went out to slay the animal, but was killed by the boar.

WESTERN LIFE.

Mr. Winks—Been West, eh? People out there are full of life and energy, I suppose?

Mr. Minks—Yes, indeed; they have to be.

Always on a rush, eh?

Yes, in cold weather. I just tell you, folks who depend on soft coal to keep warm, where the thermometers go 20 degrees below zero, have to keep on a rush with coal scuttles, or freeze

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, APR. 12.

Parable of the Great Supper." Luke 14, 15.24. Golden Text, Luke 14. 17.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

While Jesus is still in the Perean dominions of Herod Antipas, slowly walking to Jerusalem, and teaching as he went, he is one Sabbath day (December, A.D. 29) invited to dine with a large company at the dwelling of a wealthy Pharisee. For the scruples of the Pharisees, which forbade cures of the poor on the Sabbath, made no objection to feasts of the rich. We cannot say precisely where this parable was told, but it was in the neighborhood of Bethabara, beyond Jordan, where Jesus had been baptized by John. Three or four of his closest followers began their friendship for him at that time, and many holy and strange memories must have hurried hotly through their minds as familiar landscapes called back the hour when the Baptist first pointed out to them the Lamb of God who was to take away the sin of the world. That holy sacrifice was now about to be made, though these men but dimly understood it. Read this whole chapter very carefully, as requested by the Lesson Committee. Our Lord takes the opportunity to warn the assembled guests against selfishness and pride, and to urge generosity toward the poor. Then he presents the picture of the Gospel feast, with its abundant provision, neglected and despised by those who received its earliest invitation, until others were called to possess their neglected privileges. A similar parable (Matt. 22. 1-14) was uttered in the temple on Tuesday, April 4, the last day of Jesus's public teaching. All excuses from God's claims are groundless. Neither possessions, business nor pleasure should stand between us and him. None of these excuses were honest. And most modern neglecters of divine grace resembles these invited guests in their failure to squarely meet divine claims. How often the children of the kingdom" are left out, while those whose opportunities are not nearly so good embrace God's offers and are saved.

PRACTICAL NOTES.

Verse 15. One of them that sat at meat with him. Our Lord was the guest of a Perean Pharisee. The dinner was probably served in the evening. Although it is said that the company "sat," we are to understand that they reclined on couches, after the fashion of the Romans and the wealthier Jews, each man leaning on his left side and taking the food from the table with his right hand. As we look back over the centuries on that little company we cannot but feel how honored were the guests who thus sat at supper with our Lord; but (1) Much more highly honored will those be who shall sit down with him forever in heaven. These things. The blessing which this candidate for the Messiahship had just pronounced on those who gave feasts—not to the rich and the famous, but to the poor. He said unto him. We do not know the name of the guest who now speaks, but we owe him a great debt for it was his ejaculation which led to the telling of the rich story that follows. Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God. If, instead of the word "blessed," we read, "O, how happy is he!" we will come nearer to the original. "Eat bread" means, of course, partake of food, and would, in the ancient language, refer to a sumptuous banquet as well as to biscuit and water. "The kingdom of God," in the mouth of an ordinary Jew, probably meant the dominion of the Messiah. How far it may also have referred to the glorious future after death we cannot say. On our Lord's tongue, "the kingdom of God" had a broader meaning; it meant the prevalence of God's ideas—the fulfillment of the prayer, "Thy kingdom come." But this guest probably used the phrase with a thoroughly secular meaning. Doubtless, he took it for granted that, as a lord of the law, he inherit rights to all the luxuries of the kingdom of God, and it is very likely that he had in his mind expectations of luxurious banquets to which this young Messiah would invite his friends as soon as he was established on the throne of Judah.

16. Then he said unto him. The man was right in his theology, but wrong in his application of it. Those that might be thus "blessed" were unconsciously refusing to "eat bread"—to participate in the Messianic banquet. A certain man. This parable and that of "the marriage of the king's son" (Matt. 22) nearly resemble each other, but there are also important differences, and they belong to different periods of Christ's ministry. This "certain man" represents God, and the "great supper" is the feast of fat things which Isaiah mentions—the blessings of the Gospel dispensation. A great supper. In the East rich men frequently gave feasts for their own glorification. The guests are not necessarily family friends. They are made up of all sorts of folks, whose presence will increase the ostentation splendor of the host. Read the description of Sindbad the Sailor's banquets, as given in the Arabian Nights, or, better still, the story, in the same strange book, of the Barmecide's feast. To both of these were invited the miserably poor. We are not to suppose that such Pharisees as the one who was now entertaining Jesus invited him because they believed in him, but rather because his presence at the banquet would make the outside gossips talk of the banquet. (2) God's grace is the feast of the richest fare, the fullest enjoyment, and the most noble companionship. It is well for us to think much of this figure of speech, "a great supper." The great King, through unnumbered centuries, has been preparing a spiritual feast for your soul and mine, and yours for us to come and enjoy it. Bade many. Our Lord here probably would refer to the Jewish people, to whom the Gospel was first preached, but, as in most of his parables, there is a secondary meaning, which applies to all who hear the call of Christ. The Eastern custom, which invited the guests long beforehand, as we do for a wedding, which announced the coming feast of the whole neighborhood and allowed the men and women of the streets to crowd in and line the walls, and gaze on the guests, must be kept in mind as we follow the course of the story. (3) "All who have been brought up in Christian families, all who have been trained in church and Sabbath school, all who have studied the word of God," are bidden to the Lord's banquet.

17. Sent his servant at supper time. The "servant" represents every bearer of the Gospel invitation, preacher, Sunday school teacher, friend. (4) It is a high honor to be God's herald of the glad tidings. At supper time. Kitto went too far when he stated that it was customary in the East to formally remind guests of their engagement; but such a course would not be contrary to custom, and in a place where timepieces are practically unknown, and where guests live close together, it would be convenient both for the host and for the guest. Them that were bidden. Those that had accepted the first invitation. Come. The invitation to the Gospel feast is (1) authoritative, from God; (2) joyful, rising only pleasure; (3) urgent, demandir immediate attention; (4) none can partake of the feast unless he "comes." All things are now ready. The food was cooked, and the waiting maids were ready to serve it. So the Gospel came in the fullness of time when the world had been prepared for it. So now, in the accepted time, our souls shall find, if we only come, that every provision to meet the full needs of our souls has been made, and all things are now ready.

18. They all with one consent began to make excuse. Their hearts and minds were one, although the guests were of several sorts. "They all" refers, first of all, to God's chosen people, who as a race rejected Christ—"have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him?" But there are many around our churches and homes who make similar excuses where a cordial acceptance might be expected. (5) The wonder is that any should seek excuse from heavenly delights. True friends do not make excuses; they may at times feel the need of giving sufficient reason for their action, but no one with love in his heart will frame an excuse; besides, no excuse can be framed which will suffice to explain the neglect of salvation. The feast at which they all "sat" gave point to this whole story. Those who surrounded the table had not treated the hospitable summons in any such contemptible way, but very likely that man who had piously sighed about eating bread in the kingdom of God was at this very time making excuses in his heart for rejecting Jesus. The first. An excuse in the East is almost equivalent to a declaration of war, bitter enmity. The first is that of the man who, like all wealthy farmers in the East, lives in the village, but owns fields far and near. He has bought a new one and makes his purchase an apology for not going. The frivolity of the excuse is evident. His farm would not run away; he might have looked at it before he purchased it; he might have looked at it after the feast had been eaten. His excuse was really an insult courteously expressed. (6) We should attend first to that duty which can least afford to wait. (7) How many and how varied are the influences which tend to hinder our soul's salvation!

19. I have bought five yoke of oxen. An evasion as absurd as the last. Many many as five yoke of oxen. (8) The peasant farmers in the East have as one already rich has no desire for salvation; the one seeking to be rich has no time for it. (9) "Things lawful in themselves, when the heart is too much set upon them, prove fatal hindrances in religion."—Matthew Henry.

20. Married a wife. (10) How often earthly affections stand in the way of heavenly treasures. Cannot come. It is not customary for women in the Orient to accompany their husbands to public places or parties. The luxurious nobleman had simply added one woman more to his harem, and it was a plain statement that there was more pleasure for him at home in his own resources than in his friend's house from his friend's resources. Read Deut. 24. 5 for excuses granted newly-married bridegrooms.

21. Showed his lord these things. (11) He who is unsuccessful in his holy endeavors should go at once to the Master and tell him all his disappointments. The master of the house being angry. Being indignant. He felt that something must be done at once. (12) Workers for God must be prompt. Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city. The creditable and discreditable portions of the city. To the Jews who listened this meant that as the elders had rejected Jesus he had now turned to the masses, to the publicans and sinners. The poor. This described most of the congregation Jesus preached to. The maimed. The halt. The blind. Those who have defects in character can have them supplied by him who summons them to the feast.

22. It is done. This servant unquestioningly obeys the strange command. 23, 24. Highways and hedges. The reputable and disreputable parts of the country. Compel them to come in. Not by force, but by the constraint of good reason and much love. The ultimate decision of every soul rests with itself. There was no persussion offered to those who had already excused themselves, because it showed no interest; but those who are really unfit, and not at all prepared for the royal feast, are urged and besought to come. None of those. God never tolerates the contempt of the self-righteous.

PROFITS OF DIAMOND MINING.

The Net Income From the De Beers Mines in South Africa $11,222,840 Last Year.

The South African diamond mines of the De Beers Consolidated Mines Company yielded last year a clear profit of $11,222,840. The diamonds taken from the mines sold for $15,530,790. The expenses of operating the mines for the twelve months, including a liberal allowance for deterioration of plant and for interest on debentures, were about $8,525,000. Money received for rents, profits on various investments, and miscellaneous sources of income brought up the year's profits to the sum mentioned.

Dividends at the rate of 25 per cent. per annum were paid, which disposed of about $5,000,000 of the profits, and a nice equal sum was set aside as a reserve and invested in consols and other sure things, thus assuring another year's dividend in advance. From all of which it will be seen that diamond mining comes about as near to what it is crack-ed up to be as anything does in this world of disenchantment.

The average yield of diamonds was 0.85 carat in each load of clay. The average value of the diamonds mined was 25s. 6d. a carat, say $6.12. At the end of the fiscal year the company had 3,860,256 loads of clay on its floors ready for the shifting process. This was taken into account as being worth, in diamond possibilities 3s. 6d. a load, although the clay has usually averaged 2s. 6d. a load. This would make the real profits, realized or in sight, even more than stated in the figures given above. And last year's results showed an increase in revenue from diamonds produced and sold of $1,428,955 over the previous twelve months.

An increased price was received for diamonds last year over the previous year, and the directors believe that the present high rates will be fully maintained if the output is carefully regulated. There is a good deal of skill necessary in the manipulation of an output of $15,000,000 worth of diamonds a year. The company's future is comfortably assured for some time at least, as a diamond syndicate has purchased hard touches him, and he grabbed it, and, feeling the warmth of it before it was wrenched away, he called out to the supposed students: "You rascals, get out of here or I'll break every bone in your bodies!" Again the hand touched him, when he grasped it firmly and pulled, and, to his surprise and horror the whole arm came. Well, when the authorities found him in the morning he was a chattering maniac, and it was not until five or six years after, when the poor man had regained his intelligence, that a former student confessed how he and three others had concealed themselves under the sleeping janitor's bed, and, after passing their own hands over his face several times, had allowed him to wrench away the dead arm."

"In a Philadelphia college," said a fourth disciple of Aesculapius, "two students came near having the wits scared out of them by one of nature's caprices. They were working diligently upon a subject, when, as if suddenly having become imbued with life, it raised up from a recumbent to a sitting position, at the same time emitting a groan. Of course, the students fled from the room, and who would not under like circumstances? The phenomena was explained by a sudden, general contraction of many of the muscles, as sometimes occurs after death, and the groan resulted from the air in the lungs being forced through the vocal chords durings the contraction."

FOILED AGAIN.

No, said Dismal Dawson, to the sharp-nosed lady, I ain't wantin' nothin' to eat. A few minutes ago I was hungry enough to be glad of even a chance to chew the rag, but since I got to watchin' your beautiful little children a playin' out in the grass there—

Saks alive! screamed the lady. Them Thompson young ones on my lawn again?

As she vanished around the corner of the house with the broom in her hand Mr. Dawson sighed. Foiled again.

GHASTLY EXPERIENCES.

A COLLEGE PROFESSOR CHASED BY A DEAD SOLDIER.

Knock-Down Blow Dealt a Student by a Corpse—College Janitor Driven Insane by a Lifeless Arm—Cadavers That Sat up and Groaned.

At a gathering of physicians some interesting experiences were detailed.

"Shortly after receiving my diploma," remarked an elderly doctor, "I accepted the position of Assistant Demonstrator of Anatomy at the University of—, in Prussia. Just about this time it seemed to be the fad for soldiers to terminate their earthly woes by filling the barrels of their guns with water and discharging the same through the roof of their mouths, thereby blowing off the top of their heads. One stormy afternoon one of these suicides was brought to the Anatomical Department of the University, and he was, indeed, a splendid specimen of manhood. As this method of shattering the cranium offers an excellent opportunity for securing the labyrinth of the internal ear, I cut the body in two and had the upper half removed to my private office, which adjoined the dissecting room.

"That evening, as was my usual custom, I remained with the students in the dissecting room until after midnight, when the last one departed. As a thunderstorm was raging without I decided to stay until morning, so at once repaired to my private office to finish some anatomical investigations. I had been at work for about an hour when after a tremendous volley of thunder a faint cry of 'Water!' reached me. I glanced in the direction whence it came, and, seeing nothing but cadavers and various parts of the human skeleton, knew that the

CRY DID NOT EMANATE

From that part of the room, and, thinking it a prank of imagination, once more turned to the task before me.

"'Water!' this time it was plainer, and I looked in the direction and saw nothing but the mutilated face of the military suicide, upon which fell the soft rays from my student lamp. Being of a scientific turn of mind, I scoffed any superstitious idea which tried to enter my mind, and again resumed my labor.

"'Water!' This time a tremendous crash of thunder followed, and a flash of lightning presented to me a most horrible sight. There, towering like a giant before me, his arms folded, and a military cloak thrown over his shoulders, stood the dead soldier. My heart seemed to stand still. I could not breathe, and my hair stood on end. I was deserted by the naturalist within me as the gory face, one of its eyes hanging down upon the cheek and the other apparently giving me a glassy stare, turned toward me. Before me were the long, keen vivisection knives, and my thoughts reverted to the frightful possibility of the ghastly thing attacking me with one of them. He advanced from the shadows, and I gave one shriek and sprang to the door, it was locked! I then endeavored to leap through the window. It was also fastened. On came the grim specter, and, being driven to desperation, I grappled with it, when my lamp was upset, and we were in darkness. I heard a harsh laugh and fainted. When consciousness returned the janitor was by my side and explained that one of the students,

SCENTING A LARK

Had placed the body above his head, covered it with the cloak and perpetrated a practical joke. Suffice it to say, I did not survive the nervous shock for a long time, nor was the miscreant ever forgiven."

"That reminds me," said a young physician, "of a scare I shall never forget. It happened in a college, where I was a student. A prize had been offered by the late Dr. W. W. Dawson for the best dissection, and I was exerting all my energies to win it. One evening, or rather morning, long after all the students had laid away their instruments and gone home, I was working out the nerves and vessels under the arm of my subject, and had it fastened by a piece of cord to a nail above. All was quiet, and I was interested in my work, when suddenly and without warning a blow on the head disturbed me and stunned me momentarily. So frightened was I that I could not get up from the floor, where I had fallen. Of course, I feared no spiritual visitation, but as nothing was visible my uneasiness was something terrible. Glancing over toward the cadaver upon which I had been working I realized at once that I had been knocked out by a dead man. The arm which had hitherto been fastened was hanging at the side of the body, and the whole explanation was that the string slipped, allowing the limb to gravitate toward my interpseing cranium. As much as the prize was coveted, I never worked after the students had gone."

"It has been my good fortune," spoke up another, "to have escaped all such soul-harrowing experiences, but I remember distinctly an occurrence during my student life. It was at an Eastern college, which had engaged a new janitor, who was an unpleasant, surly fellow, and consequently much disliked by the students. The janitor occupied a little apartment close to the dissecting room, and one night, after he had retired, a

HAND FONDLED HIS FACE.

Upon which he, being very tired, grumbled, rolled over and kept more soundly than before. This was repeated, and he sat up, rubbed his eyes, looked around and laid down again. Once more the hand touched him, and he grabbed it, and, feeling the warmth of it before it was wrenched away, he called out to the supposed students: 'You rascals, get out of here or I'll break every bone in your bodies!' Again the hand touched him, when he grasped it firmly and pulled, and, to his surprise and horror the whole arm came. Well, when the authorities found him in the morning he was a chattering maniac, and it was not until five or six years after, when the poor man had regained his intelligence, that a former student confessed how he and three others had concealed themselves under the sleeping janitor's bed, and, after passing their own hands over his face several times, had allowed him to wrench away the dead arm."

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