

THE THREE KINGS.

Three Kings came riding from far away,
Mellor and Gopher and Balthazar;
Three Wise Men out of the East they were,
And they traveled by night and they slept by day.
For their guide was a beautiful, wonderful star.

The star was so beautiful, large and clear,
That all the other stars of the sky
Became a white mist in the atmosphere,
And the Wise Men knew that the coming was near
Of the Prince foretold in the prophecy.

Three caskets they bore on their saddle-bows,
Three caskets of gold with golden keys;
Their robes were of crimson silk, with rows
Of bells and pomegranates and furbelows,
Their turbans like blossoming almond trees.

And so the Three Kings rode into the West,
Through the dusk of night over hills and dells,
And sometimes they nodded with heads and dells,
And sometimes talked, as they pursued to rest,
With the people they met at the way-side wells.

"Of the child that is born," said Balthazar,
"Good people, I pray you, tell us the news.
For we in the East have seen his star,
And have ridden far, and have ridden far,
To find and worship the King of the Jews."

And the people answered, "You ask in vain;
We know of no King but Herod the Great."
They thought the Wise Men were insane,
Like riders in haste who cannot wait.

And when they came to Jerusalem,
Herod the Great had heard this thing,
Sent for the Wise Men and questioned them;
And said, "Go down into Bethlehem,
And bring me tidings of this new King."

So they rode away; and the star stood still,
The only one in the gray of morn;
Yes, it stood still, it stood still of its own free will,
Light over Bethlehem on the hill,
The city of David where Christ was born.

And the Three Kings rode thro' the gate and the guard,
Through the silent street, till their horses turned,
And neighed as they entered the great inn-yard;
But the windows were closed, and the doors were barred,
And only a light in the stable burned.

And cradled there in the scented hay,
In the air made sweet by the breath of kine,
The little child in his manger lay,
The child that would be king one day,
Of a kingdom not human but divine.

His mother, Mary of Nazareth,
Sat watching beside his place of rest,
Watching the even flow of his breath,
For the joy of life and the terror of death
Were mingled together in her breast.

They laid their offerings at his feet;
The gold was their tribute to a king;
The frankincense, with its odor sweet,
Was for the priest, the Purificer,
The symbol for the body's burning.

And the mother watched and bowed her head,
And sat as still as a statue of stone;
Her heart was troubled, yet contented;
Remembering what the angel had said
Of an endless reign and of David's throne.

Then the Kings rode out of the city gate,
With the slatter of hoofs, in proud array;
But they went not back to Herod the Great,
For they knew his mind, yet contented;
And returned to their homes by another way.

—Longfellow in St. Nicholas.

SOME OTHER RIGHTS OF WOMEN.—From Bob Ingersoll's new lecture: "I believe women is the equal of man and has all the rights of man, and one more, that of protection. I believe the institution of marriage to be the holiest and most sacred institution among men. Yet it took thousands of years to advance from slavery up to the marriage institution. I hate a man who think he is the head of the family. I do. I despise him. I hate one of those dignified galoots. I never saw a dignified man who was not a dunce. Solemnity is a breastwork which mediocrity throws up to defend itself from the eyes of the world. I hate a man who is an aristocrat in his family, and whose wife is obliged to be a beggar. She says, 'I want a dollar,' and asks for it as if she were standing on a bomb-shell, and he replies, 'What did you do with the fifty cents I gave you?' How many women are obliged to be continual beggars. How can you raise children in such an atmosphere? It's a terrible thing; it's a wretched and infamous. I believe in the democracy of the family. Every home should be a little republic in itself. Love is the only thing that will pay ten per cent. to both borrower and lender. Love is the only thing where the least possible extravagance is the light of economy. What right has man to be the head of the family? A man should be cheerful and pleasant on coming into the house. When you enslave anybody, you make him dishonest. A hat with love is a palace fit for a king. A little while ago I stood at the tomb of the dead Napoleon, and, when I thought of his past life, I thought I would rather have been a French peasant and worn wooden shoes, living in a hut with a little wife I loved, with children upon my knee, and their arms about my neck, and died unnoticed and unknown, loved by those who knew me, than to have been that king. It is not necessary to be great or rich or powerful to be happy."

TRYING TO LIVE WITHOUT WORK.—The following, from the pen of Horace Greeley, is true and applicable to this day: "Our people are too widely inclined to shun the quiet ways of producing labor, and try to live and thrive in the crooked paths of speculation and needless traffic. We have deplorably few boys learning trades, with ten times too many anxious to get into business; that is, to devise some scheme whereby they may live without work. Of the journeymen mechanics now at work in this city we judge that two-thirds were born in Europe, and the disparity is steadily augmenting. One million families are trying to live by selling liquors, tobacco, candy, etc., in our cities, who could be spared therefrom without the slightest detriment; and if these were transferred to the soil, and set to growing grain, meats, wool, etc., or employed in smelting the metals, or weaving the fabrics for which we are running into debt in Europe, our country would increase its wealth at least twice as fast as now, and there would be far less complaint of dull trade and hard times."

"Six feet in his boots!" exclaimed Mrs. Partridge. "What will the impudence of this world come to, I wonder? Why, they might as well tell me that the man had six heads in his hat."

THE COLOR AND FRAGRANCE OF FLOWERS.

Prof Vogel discourses pleasantly on "The Color and Fragrance of Flowers" in the *International Review*, wherein he says: "The chemical transformations in the bodies of living plants, by which the most manifold and brilliant colors are produced, are almost entirely unknown to us. We see a flower pass through the entire scale of red, from the softest pink to the darkest purple-brown; but can give no explanation whatever of the mysterious process. We know, for instance, that the light of the sun greatly influences the color of living plants, and experience has taught us that in most cases its total exclusion is equivalent to the absence of every color; in other words, that it produces white leaves and blossoms. However, this rule is by no means without exception, as many roots, the roots of *Alcaena*, for instance, although buried in the soil, and completely secluded from the rays of the sun, possess a strong and vivid color. We can explain neither the rule, nor the exception; on the contrary, we know that, as far as lifeless matter is concerned, mineral or vegetable colors are weakened, and gradually destroyed, rather than enhanced, by the action of the light. Our ignorance in this respect restricts our influence upon the coloration of flowers and blossoms to a very modest and merely empirical one. A mere chance has led to the discovery that the infusion of sulphates of iron into the soil darkens the hue of certain plants which contain a considerable quantity of tannin; and gardeners have profited by this discovery for the culture of the *Hortensia* (*Hydrangea*). But these examples are rare, and as yet we must renounce all claim to the control and influence of the natural course of things in this field. We may be able to change the color of a plant or flower by transferring it into another soil; but we are never sure of the result, and cannot give any scientific explanation of it.

"The fragrance of a flower is likewise produced by chemical action which hitherto has escaped our closest investigations; we see the result; we see that a flower, like the bee which transforms pollen into honey and wax, fabricates volatile oils out of air, water, and light; but the chemical process itself is a complete mystery to us. We only know that the slowness or rapidity of the evaporation of these oils is the cause of the stronger or weaker odor of the flower. The mode of their formation is a good example of the unlimited variability and manifold variety of vegetation's chemical powers. Many plants do not limit themselves to the formation of a certain volatile oil in their blossoms or flowers, but produce at the same time various kinds of oils in their different parts. The orange tree, for instance, produces volatile oils in the leaves, flowers, and the rind of its fruit. A close investigation convinces us that these differ, not only in their smell and taste, but also in their weight, density, and other physical and chemical qualities; that, in short, they are different and independent substances which cannot be mistaken for each other. The same plant must therefore possess three entirely different substances out of the same ingredients. What chemical laboratory, be it ever so well furnished and skillfully managed, can boast of results in any respect so wonderful?"

HOW A PECKY WOMAN SURVEYED A TRAMP.—Miss Nancy J. Lathrop, a well-known school teacher of East Longmeadow, Mass., had an experience last Saturday which deserves mention. While sitting alone in her father's house she was alarmed by the sight of a wild-looking tramp peering at her through the window. Seizing an old, unloaded gun, she went boldly out upon the veranda, and presenting the weapon, ordered the fellow away. Instead of obeying, he savagely sprang toward her, when she dealt him a heavy blow on the head with the stock of the gun, which sent him reeling off the veranda. He rallied and started for her again, when she leveled the gun at his head and told him she would shoot him dead if he advanced another step. Putting his hand before his face, he said: "Don't, don't shoot me!" and retreated. Miss Lathrop following him to the road with the gun leveled at his head. In his haste, he turned the same way he came, and, discovering his mistake, and asked that he might pass her, so that he could go the opposite way. She stepped back and permitted him to do so, but stood with the gun aimed at him until he had passed the next house, which is some 40 rods away. Then she realized for the first time that she was frightened and could hardly stand. The gun had not been loaded for years, but it answered the purpose just as well, and in the future she intends to have it well loaded and handy.—*Springfield (Mass.) Union*.

ROAST WILD GOOSE.—If you are sure the goose has not partaken of the poison which is now being used to check their depredations on grain fields, you may roast it as follows: Draw, singe, and cleanse very carefully and parboil it for a few minutes, placing an onion inside the bird in order to absorb the sedge flavor which otherwise would be very perceptible. Rinse in cold water and dry carefully, then fill with a dressing of chestnuts, prepared in the following manner. Boil the chestnuts in slightly salted water, until the skin will readily slip off and the inside will mash. When nicely skinned, pound them and season with a very little chopped onion, lemon juice, cayenne pepper and salt to taste. Truss the goose neatly and roast in a quick oven; put an onion in the pan and baste frequently, first with butter and salt water, then with the drippings; finally dredge with flour, baste with butter and serve frothy and brown, accompanied by freshly-made apple sauce.

A SAPONACEOUS INK.—A soap, insoluble in water, may be made by mixing castile soap with a solution of sulphate of alumina, sulphate of iron, or sulphate of copper, copper making the mixture green, iron leather-colored, alumina colorless. It may be applied by melting, or by solution in petroleum or other volatile hydrocarbons. If the solution is not perfectly fluid, it should be warmed.

FACTS ABOUT HONEY.

The National Beekeepers' Convention, in session at New York, October 16th to 19th, 1877, aware of the general lack of information concerning improved methods of apiculture and its products, respectfully submit the following statement of facts for general information, concerning a large source of personal and national revenue in preserving the honey which God has caused to flow so abundantly in the vast and varied flora of our country. The convention thought that the wide publication of the following facts would lead people to a better knowledge of honey as a food material, and, consequently, increase the demand for the beekeepers' product. We cheerfully comply with the request, and publish as follows:

1. It is only a few years since the invention of the *mouth comb* hive has opened up a new era in beekeeping, and placed it on the basis of a successful business pursuit. Such hives adapted to climate, furnish every facility for intelligent management of bees by regulating swarming, guarding against moths, and manipulating both bees and combs.

2. The inventors of the *extractor*, or honey sifter, a machine which empties the honey from the comb by centrifugal force, without injury, so that the combs may be returned to the bees, marks another great step in apiculture. Thus virgin honey, free from foreign admixture, is obtained, having the flavor of the flower from which it is drawn.

3. The further invention of artificial comb foundation, made of pure wax, first successfully used to a large extent this season, completes the requisites for placing beekeeping on the basis of a great industry in our country. Bees receive this artificial comb foundation with readiness as receptacles both for honey and brood.

4. Simultaneous with the first and all of these improvements, the introduction of Italian bees and improved modes of rearing queens, of transporting and introducing them to colonies, has greatly improved the value of the honey raised, both because of the superiority of the Italian bee and the introduction of new blood. New blood prevents the danger from in-and-in breeding.

5. The great drawback to apiculture is the sting of the bee. Danger from this source is now largely overcome by the simple appliances used for the protection of the person and for subduing the bees. The most vicious colony may be subdued in a very few minutes.

6. To consumers of honey a few facts are necessary in this article to preserve them from imposition. Nice white comb speaks for itself, and is generally admired, but the price many lovers of honey cannot afford. It makes a beautiful dish for the table, but is no better than *extracted* honey. All comb is wax, and wax in the stomach is perfectly indigestible. Extracted honey is the pure liquid honey as it is taken from the combs by the honey sifter, free from any foreign admixture. It is entirely different from what is known in this market as *strained* honey. Consumers help to impose upon themselves by the false idea that pure honey will not granulate. They desire ungranulated honey, and dealers will attempt to supply the demand. Almost all pure honey will granulate when exposed for some time to light and cold. The granulated state is a fine evidence of pure honey. Much of the jar honey heretofore sold in the markets, and recommended not to granulate, is a very inferior article, composed largely of glucose, or some inferior substance. Granulated honey can be reduced to its liquid state in a few moments by placing the jar in warm water. When thus crystallized it so remains for some time before again crystallizing. Consumers may be sure of a good wholesome article by purchasing granulated honey and reducing it.

7. To producers. By full use of improvements in beekeeping, the honey crop of America may be almost indefinitely increased, and become a great source of national revenue. None need fear over-production. The home demand and consumption is largely increased wherever people learn to know the superiority of such honey. Dealers in New York have already commenced a large export trade, and they sell us that their only difficulty is in procuring honey in proper shape and quantity to supply the growing demand. Trade demands that they be put up in nice attractive packages, and in small parcels or jars, so as to be readily handled by grocers and consumers. Honey was, for centuries, the principal sweet known, and is one of the most healthful of all. Improvements in refining sugars have, within the last two or three centuries, led to its general adoption. Why may not also new improvements in apiculture restore it to its true place as a general favorite, which was lost by bad management and the consequent corresponding limited supply?

We believe that improvements in beekeeping, as compared with old methods, are not less than those seen in railroads and steamboats as compared with former modes of travel.

For mutual information we would advise the organization of local societies and conventions to further this business among all interested in apiculture.

J. H. NELLS, Pres't.
THOS. G. NEWMAN, Sec'y.

SHEEP'S TONGUE STEWED.—Sheep's tongues, some good gravy, a little parsley, shallot, mushrooms, pepper, salt and butter. Put the tongues into some cold water and let them simmer until sufficiently tender to remove the skin easily without destroying the shape of them, split and lay them in a stewpan with enough good gravy to cover them. Chop a little parsley, some shallots and mushrooms finely, working in a good piece of butter at the same time. Season with pepper, salt and nutmeg to taste. Stew all tender, and pour very hot over the tongues. Serve with apples of toast bread round.—*N. Y. Herald*.

HAM TOAST.—*Arthur's Home Magazine* pronounces ham toast, made in the following manner, very nice: Melt in a stewpan a small piece of butter, till it is browned a little. Put in as much finely-minced ham as will cover a large round of buttered toast, and add as much gravy as will moisten it moist. When quite hot, stir in quickly with a fork, one egg. Place the mixture over the toast, which cut in pieces of any shape you may fancy.

CHAFF.

SOME Indians use scalping-knives of tortoise-shell; probably on account of the old fable in which the tortoise was alleged to have got away with the hare.

PROFESSOR, deeply interested in his subject: "Just here I will make a remark that, if you take the trouble to inquire, you will find 99 out of 100 hold this opinion. Yes, I was about to say 999 out of 1,000."

"EVERYTHING all right, sir? Goose with wine sauce good, sir?" asked an obsequious waiter at a restaurant the other day. "Quite right," replied the guest, "but for one trifle, namely, that the age is in the goose instead of the wine."

You can't plant cats too early, nor is it possible to get too many in a hill. You may not raise anything else that season where the cat is planted, but in the meantime the cat will have raised anything other, and that is where the enormous profit comes in.

SOMEWHERE in Wisconsin, Mass., lives an honest variety of thief. Mr. Markham's cow lately came home at night with a bit of paper fastened to her horn, containing six cents and this note: "Enclosed find six cents for one quart of milk taken this forenoon."

A NOVEL decoration was worn the other day by a recruit in the Austrian service. When passing muster the sergeant asked what order he was wearing. The recruit blushed deeply, and stammered: "The medal which was given to our cow at the late agricultural exhibition."

CUSTOMER (to proprietor of large establishment): "I want a mourning suit, please." Proprietor: "What is the bereavement, may I ask?" Customer: "My mother-in-law." Proprietor (to distant shopman): "Mr. Brown, show this gentleman the Light Affliction Department."

THERE are queer nooks and corners left in Old England. A visitor to a country parson told how, when he accompanied him lately to take the duty in a remote parish, the sexton said: "Perhaps your reverence won't mind preaching from the chancel, for we've got a duck-a-sittin' in the pulpit."

As old bachelor was courting a widow, and both had sought the aid of art to give to their fading hair a darker shade, "That's going to be an affectionate couple," said a wag. "Why so?" asked a friend. "Why, don't you see that they are dying for each other already?"

RALPH WALDO EMERSON addressed, 20 years ago, a literary society during commencement at Middlebury, Vt., and when he ended the President called upon a clergyman to conclude the service with prayer. Then arose a Massachusetts minister, who stepped into the pulpit Mr. Emerson had just left, and uttered a remarkable prayer, of which this was one sentence: "We beseech Thee, O Lord, to deliver us from ever hearing any more such transcendental nonsense as we have just listened to from the sacred desk." After the benediction Mr. Emerson asked his next neighbor the name of the officiating clergyman, and, when flatteringly answered, with gentle simplicity remarked: "He seemed a very conscientious, plain-spoken man."

CONDITION OF NATIONAL BANKS.

The following is an abstract of reports made to the Comptroller of the Currency, showing the condition of the national banks in the United States at the close of business on Monday, the first of October, 1877. There are 2,080 banks in operation:

Assets.	Liabilities.
Loans and discounts.....	\$ 895,243,390
Overdrafts.....	3,577,803
United States bonds to secure circulation.....	330,819,869
Circulated United States bonds to secure deposits.....	14,900,000
United States bonds on hand.....	30,982,708
Other stocks, bonds and mortgages.....	34,428,995
Due from approved reserve agents.....	73,284,123
Due from other national banks.....	48,317,340
Due from State banks and bankers.....	15,415,591
Real estate, furniture and fixtures.....	45,229,988
Current expenses and taxes paid.....	9,618,792
Profits and losses.....	9,319,174
Checks and other cash items, exchanges for clearing house.....	74,125,315
Bits of other national banks.....	15,351,754
Fractional currency.....	989,685
Specie, viz.: gold coin.....	4,900,666
Legal tender notes.....	5,700,703
United States certificates.....	14,000,400
Legal tender notes.....	66,850,604
U. S. certificates of deposits for legal tender notes.....	35,416,000
Five per cent. redemption fund.....	14,494,528
Due from U. S. Treasury.....	1,357,119
Total.....	\$1,741,994,689

"THERE is not," wrote the editor of the *Deadwood Daily Champion*, "a quieter, more peaceful, well-regulated and orderly community in the Western country." And then, as the office boy entered to say that somebody wanted to see him, he took his bowie knife between his teeth, put a Colt's new patent seven-shooter on the desk in front of him, and then said: "Jim, get out another coffin, a plain one this time, and let the critter come on."

A DISPATCH from Fort Eads says: The official survey of Capt. M. R. Brown, U. S. army inspecting officer at the Mississippi jetty, shows a 22-foot channel, over 200 feet wide, entirely through the works, which entitles Mr. Eads to the second payment of \$500,000.

GOVERNOR McCOMB Commissioner General to the Paris exposition is overwhelmed with applications for positions from associate commissioners and clerks, to laborers of every description.

It is proposed to increase the British army.