THE COTTAGE GATE.

In the sultry time of mowing,
When the fields are full of hay,
Pretty Janet brings her sewing
To the gate at close of day.

Do you wonder that she lingers—
Often glances down the lane?
Do you ask me why her fingers
Seem to find their work a strain?

Love dreams held her in their tether
Love is often (as we know)
Idle in the summer weather,
Idlest in the sunset glow.

Now the toil of day is over;
Janet has not long to wait
For a shadow on the clover,
And a footstep at the gate.

How is this? The slighted greeting
Has been taken up anew;
Very quiet is her greeting,
Scarcely raised those eyes of blue.

Now he leans upon the railing,
Tells her all about the hay;
Till his plans seem unavailing—
Very little will she say.

If you think it strange, my reader,
Learn a lesson from the rose—
From the garden's queenly leader,
Fairest flower that ever blows.

Not at once she flaunts her petals;
First a bud of sober green;
By and by the stretching sepals
Show a dash of red between.

Breezes rock her; sunbeams woo her;
Wide and wider does she start,
Opens all her crimson treasures,
Yields the fragrance at her heart.

Ah! the rose buds will not render
All their secrets in one day;
And the maiden, shy and tender,
Is as diffident as they.

Brides' Dresses.—The richest bridal dresses worn recently have been made of white satin, trimmed with lace. Cut in the princess style, the overdress of lace, or lace arranged as scarfs, forms the entire drapery. The garniture consists of flowers in masses and trailing fringes. The prettiest bridal dress of the season was of rich white satin, covered with myriads of rows of finely plaited Breton lace, and garnitured with natural rosebuds and orange blossoms. No artificial flowers were used. The veil was attached to a full, close wreath of the same flowers, but the bouquet was composed entirely of white rosebuds. The effect of Breton lace is particularly soft and foamy, much more becoming to youthful brides than heavy point lace. A very pretty and much more simple bridal dress is of white barege, trimmed also with quantities of delicately plaited Breton lace. The garniture of this dress is white satin ribbon. No flowers used, except a great bunch of natural lilies of the valley and white rosebuds at the front of the corsage. Artificial flowers are not now considered *distingue* as a garniture for bridal dresses. Bridesmaids adopt the English fashion of wearing large quaint hats or bonnets. At a recent wedding the bridesmaids wore princess dresses of pale pink, a combination of silk and brocade, and large hats of the Gainesborough shape, trimmed with Breton lace and immense crushed roses.

The World's Telegraph System.—Leaving out the land lines, which connect all the civilized countries of the world with their neighbors, there are now over 70,000 miles of cable crossing the seas and oceans. New submarine telegraphs, rivalling in length the greatest now existing, are soon to be laid. A line from San Francisco to the Sandwich Islands, and thence to Japan—where now 5,000 miles of wire are in operation, though the first were only laid 10 years ago—so as to connect the island groups of the Pacific with the continents of Asia and America, will complete the telegraphic circuit of the globe. The king of the Sandwich Islands has granted a concession for the first part of this final link, and it will not be many years before we shall see it in working condition.

THE HUMAN SPECIES.

In the light of modern discoveries, the problem of the origin of the human race is constantly receiving fresh accessions to the Mosaic account, notwithstanding the researches of so learned a man as Agassiz, and the delectable theories of Darwin. In order to explain the perplexities that arise from the strange anomalies that exist in the human family, Agassiz selected several centers of creation of man, giving to each of the great races a particular creative point, otherwise the Mosaic account was accepted so far as it threw any light upon the results of modern researches. Looking upon the different races as possessing nothing in common with each other, and the analogies ending with the general appearances and structure of the physical system, perhaps the theory could be maintained from a strictly material point of view. The views of Agassiz in this regard were not entirely satisfactory to him, and up to the time of his death he had not yet fully determined upon a proper solution of the problem.

It is not necessary to anathematize Darwinism, although, the descent of man from apes is revolting to all our intellectual ideas. The theory is plausible enough leaving out the immortality of the soul as maintained by equally wise philosophers, but has reference in our opinion more to the analogies existing in the animal propensities of the human race. Indeed, it is not necessary to go beyond the present time to find the intellectual faculties wholly obliterated by brutal instincts, all the more agravated in man by as much as he is supposed to be superior to animals. There is nothing to fear from this doctrine gaining universal acceptance. It is hardly reasonable to suppose that it will become a rule of conduct in our social relations. Carried out, however, to its fullest extent, the evil consequences must be apparent to all in the total destruction of human responsibility to any superior power.

M. De Quatrefages, Professor of Anthropology in the Museum of Natural History at Paris, has lately given to the public many interesting points concerning this subject. He maintains the unity of the human species, and arrives at the conclusion that all men of whatever color belong to the same species, and that there is but one species of man. While considering some points in Darwinism—as the struggle for existence and selection—perfectly unassailable, Prof. De Quatrefages refuses to admit the descent of man from apes. The Professor does not anathematize those who maintain that man is so descended, nor does he greatly blame their boldness. For himself, however, he declares as the result of all his studies that he does not know the origin of the human species, and he believes the solution of the question is at present impossible, and will, perhaps, always be so.

As to the antiquity of the human race, he considers that discoveries warrant the conclusion that man has survived two great geological epochs, having lived during the glacial period by protecting himself with fire, and even suggests that it is possible that hereafter traces of man may yet be found further back still. He is unwilling to accept the theory of Agassiz of several centers of creation, maintaining that no facts have yet been discovered which authorize us to place the cradle of the human race elsewhere than in Asia.

He claims that the globe was peopled by migrations by land and sea, and in regard to primitive man follows the opinion of the French naturalist, M. de Salles, who attributes red hair to the earliest men. It is also argued that the ancestors of the negro were a race of a much lighter color. The Professor does not concern himself with the distinction to be established between mind and matter, and the mysterious link which unites the physical with the intellectual being, but only with the investigation of the several manifestations resulting from this connection, and with the recognition of the distinctive marks of the groups which he is studying. Avoiding this Scylla and Charybdis upon which so many philosophical theories have been and are still being wrecked, the domain of the spiritual has no place with the material, except, perhaps, as a directive power, the power of spirit over matter. In the near future, perhaps, an objective point may be reached by human investigation, which will more fully explain the relations of spirit and matter.—*Mining and Scientific Press.*

NERVE STIMULANTS.

Dr. Brunton has the following interesting and suggestive remarks on this subject in a recent article in the *Contemporary Review*:

There are two nerves, known as the "fifth pair," which are distributed to the skin of the head and to the mucous membrane of the eyes, nose and mouth. These nerves are closely connected with the heart and vessels, and by stimulating their branches the circulation may be greatly influenced, as in the case of fainting. It is a curious fact that people of all nations are accustomed, when in any difficulty, to stimulate one or another branch of the fifth nerve, and quicken their mental processes. Thus, some persons, when puzzled, scratch their heads, others rub their foreheads, and others stroke or pull their beards, thus stimulating the occipital, frontal or mental branches of these nerves. Many Germans, when thinking, have a habit of striking their fingers against their noses, and thus stimulating the nasal cutaneous branches; while in other countries some people stimulate the branches distributed to the mucous membrane of the nose by taking snuff.

The late Lord Derby, when translating Homer, was accustomed to eat brandied cherries. One man will eat figs while composing a leading article; another will suck chocolate creams; others will smoke cigarettes; and others sip brandy and water. By these means they stimulate the lingual and buccal branches of the fifth nerve, and thus reflexly excite their brains. Alcohol appears to excite the circulation through the brain reflexly from the mouth, and to stimulate the heart reflexly from the stomach, even *before* it is absorbed into the blood. Shortly after it has been swallowed, however, it is absorbed from the stomach, and passes with the blood to the heart, to the brain, and to the other parts of the nervous system, upon which it then begins to act directly. Under its influence the heart beats more quickly, the blood circulates more freely, and thus the functional power of the various organs in the body is increased, so that the brain may think more rapidly, the muscles act more powerfully, and the stomach digest more easily. But with this exception the effect of alcohol upon the nervous system may be described as one of progressive paralysis. The higher centers suffer first, and the judgment is the first quality to be impaired, and this becomes the more so as the effect of alcohol progresses, although the other faculties of the mind may remain not only undiminished by the direct action of the alcohol on the brain, but greatly increased by general excitement of the circulation. By and by, however, the other parts of the nervous system are successively weakened, the legs fail, and the person falls insensible. It is evident, then, that only the first stages of alcoholic action are at all beneficial, the later stages being as clearly injurious.

Judge ——, now a very able judge of a Western court, when he first came to the bar was a very blundering speaker. On one occasion, when he was trying a case involving the right of a client to a lot of hogs, he addressed the jury as follows: "Gentlemen of the jury, there were just 24 hogs in that drove, just 24 gentlemen, *exactly twice as many as there are in that jury box.*" The effect can be imagined.