

TOULOUSE GEESE.

Thinking that some of our readers might like to give some attention to geese as a variety in their winged stock, we have secured an engraving of the Toulouse geese, which are among the most famous sorts. The engraving is made from drawings of birds owned by Benson, Maule & Co., of Philadelphia, large poultry breeders. The Toulouse breed is named after a city in the south of France, where they are largely raised, and whence they have been sent to all parts of the world. They are gray with white bellies; light gray on the body and breast, and dark gray on neck and wings. Their bills are dark flesh color, and legs deep orange. They are extremely large when fattened at maturity, averaging 45 to 50 pounds per pair, sometimes exceeding even this weight. They grow rapidly and will fatten readily at any age. At four weeks they will weigh from six to eight pounds. They are very hardy, being much stronger when young than goslings usually are. They are profitable on account of the abundance of feathers they produce, which, together with their extreme hardiness, makes them a desirable breed to keep. They are very prolific layers

WHAT SEVEN WOMEN DID.

These women lived in the country, were housekeepers with large families and small means; each one did her own work, and was full of care. To brighten up their monotonous lives a little during the dull, hard winter, they proposed to meet once in two weeks at each others' houses, with their knitting or sewing, but to go home before tea, that it should not interfere with their regular duties.

One of them proposed that they should read some book together and talk about it afterward, thus affording them pleasant and useful subjects for thought during the intervals of visiting. One lady suggested that they read Shakspeare. She had once seen the play of Hamlet, and she wanted to know more of this wonderful book. This at first seemed to these women of limited education, and at the ages of from 40 to 60, as an idea too ambitious for them to carry out; but at last they determined to attempt it, although for fear of the ridicule of others who might hear of it, they resolved to keep their own counsel.

By dint of economizing and contriving, they

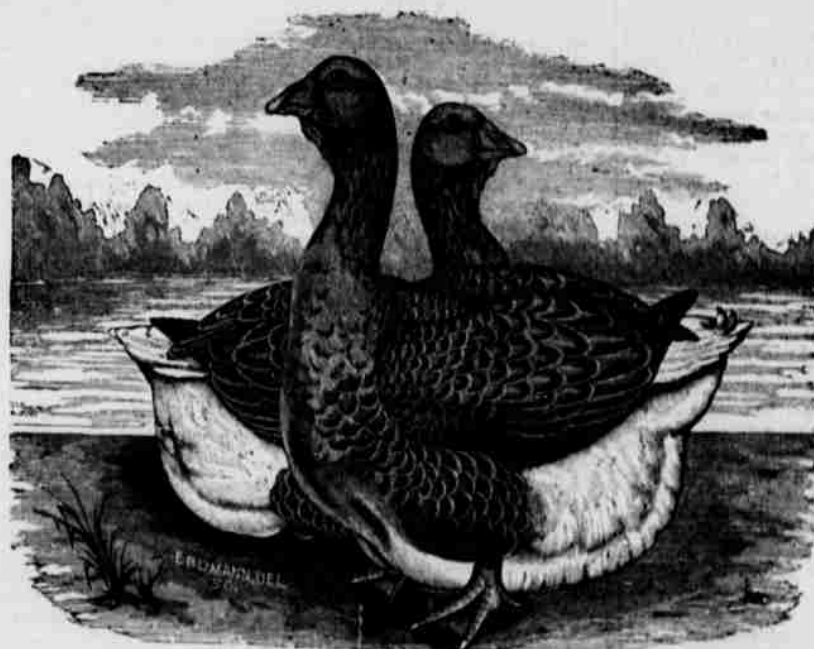
SOLID SENSE.

Virtue in its unity demands no extraordinary powers, no remarkable talents, no superhuman efforts. It is possible to each and to all—the child may possess it as well as the wisest man, the unlearned laborer as well as the most profound scholar. The outward claims of duty vary with every varying circumstance and relation of life, but this inner claim of conscience to be loyal to them as fast and as far as they are discovered, is one and the same to every human being.

The earnings and savings of industry should be for a purpose beyond mere savings and earnings. We do not work and strive for ourselves alone, but for the benefit of those who are dependent upon us. Industry must know, too, how to spend and how to save. The man who knows, like St. Paul, how to spare and how to abound, has a great knowledge.

We can never have much confidence in the uprightness of others until we have discovered some degree of uprightness in ourselves. We are apt to suspect everybody, if we ourselves ought to be suspected, and just as apt to trust others when we ourselves can be trusted.

Happiness is like manna; it is to be gathered



THE FRENCH OR TOULOUSE GEESE.

and seldom offer to sit. Their eggs usually hatch remarkably well.

This description shows some variations from that given by the breeders of the birds shown in the engraving. They are striking and handsome in either markings.

TO TEST MILK FOR WATER.—A German chemist furnishes a very simple procedure for testing the amount of water in milk, which can be applied by any one. All that is required is a small quantity of plaster of Paris, say one ounce. This is mixed with the milk to a stiff paste, and then allowed to stand. With milk of 1,030 specific gravity, and a temperature of 60° F., it will harden in 10 hours; if 25% of water is present, in two hours; if 50%, in one and one-half hours, and with 75%, in 30 minutes. Skimmed milk which has been standing for 24 hours, and is of 1,033 specific gravity, sets in four hours; with 50% of water, in one hour, and with 75%, in 30 minutes. Heat should not be applied, as then the use of the thermometer would be required. This test is certainly very simple, and not costly.

purchased a copy of Shakspeare, and with the aid of a pronouncing dictionary to test all doubtful words, they began with the play of Julius Caesar. From reading the plays, they were led to desire a knowledge of Shakspeare himself, his surroundings and his friends. A kind and congenial friend, to whom they confided their secret, obtained for them the needful books. Notwithstanding the preparatory reading and the necessary study for these meetings had to be done here and there in odd moments, these women felt uplifted and refreshed by the thoughts which thus came to them, and they were delighted with the new outlook which opened over and above their weary lives. By their careful and strict attention to their studies, the range of their knowledge was greatly enlarged, and they were able to write creditable and thoughtful essays on subjects which grew out of their research.

THE project of securing the *Great Eastern* to run between London, New Orleans and Galveston, to take our cotton and other products and bring back emigrants, is in a fair way of being fully established.

in grains, and enjoyed every day. It will not keep; it cannot be accumulated; nor have we to go out of ourselves or into remote places to gather it, since it has rained down from heaven at our very doors, or rather, within them.

One had better sail boldly in almost any direction than drift without any direction at all. One had better sail in the maddest storm that ever troubled the sea of life, than lie on the sea and drift with any wind that blows.

Talent and worth are the only lasting grounds of distinction. To these the Almighty has fixed His everlasting patent of nobility; and these it is which make the bright immortal names to which all may aspire.

It never yet happened to any man since the beginning of the world, nor ever will, to have all things according to his desire, or to whom fortune was never opposite nor adverse.

A cheerful temper is like a grain of musk; it imparts its fragrance to everything that comes in contact with it, yet it always remains the same.

It is the easiest thing in the world to discover all the defects in a man when we do not like him.