Buttercup, poppy, forgetmenot— These three bloomed in a garden spot, And once, all merry with song and play, A little one heard three voices say: "Shine or shadow, summer or spring— O thou child with the tangled hair

And laughing eyes—we three shall bring Each an offering, passing fair." The little one did not understand, But they bent and kissed the dimpled hand.

Buttercup gamboled all day long,
Sharing the little one's mirth and song;
Then, stealing along on misty gleams,
Poppy came, bringing the avectest dreams,
Playing and dreaming—that was all,
Till once the sleeper would not a wake.
Rissing the little face under the pall,
We thought of the words the third flower
stake.

spake.

And we found, betimes, in a hallowed spot
The solace and peace of forgetmenot.

Bottercup shareth the joy of day, Glinting with gold the hours of play: Bringeth the poppy sweet repose. When the hands would fold and the eyes would close. And after it all—the play and the sleep

Of a little life—what cometh then?
To the hearts that sobs and the eyes that

weep
A wee flower bringeth God's peace again.
Each one serveth its tender letButtersup, puppy, forgetimenos.
-Eugene Field in Chicago News-Record.

"JIST IN TIME,"

The sun was slowly lifting a rosy erown from the head of the tall "King mountain" in eastern Kentucky. Twilight was slowly creeping up the valley, leaving black throated tunnels yawning beneath the trees that crowded each side of the creek. With quiet chatter the chickens were gathering beneath the trees in the front of old Bill Copfield's log cabin, glancing about here and there, seeking the best boughs in which to rest through the coming night. A whippoorwill was lifting its weird, monoto nous shricks out on the mountain side at the rear of the house. Beyond the yard fence in front, on a large oak, sat a young man and a young girl. The lat-ter was Nellie Copfield, the prettiest girl "in all the country round." The former was ber big, rawboned, but withal handsome lover, Tim Holbrook.

The two had been quarreling, but now a short truce of silence had intervened. The young giant sat with his head bent over, vigorously, but unconsciously, whittling on a pine shingle. The girl sat twisting her fingers, making the joints crack, and ever and anon flashing a detecting glance at her lover. Occasionally her sharp look would encounter his, and then two chins would suddenly drop toward two breasts.

Finally the young man, with a sudden impulse, arose from the log, brushed away the shavings that clung to his clothes, and said:

Waal, I guess it's time for me ter be gittin onten this."

The girl glanced up, and with a suggestion of sarcasm in her tones said: "I'm surprised at ye wantin to go so

sudding! I thought ye was havin an awful nice time!" "Now that ain't no use in ye tryin ter

take up that ar quarrel agin. I don't feel like it. I got up ter tell ye goodby. Thar's plenty o' time yit ter tell me

that. The moon ain't hardly up yit. Ye don't want ter go off in the dark. Ye ginerally stay nearly all night. What's yer hurry now?" The girl's tones were full of affected pleasantry, and her eyes glowed with soft radiance through the gathering darkness. At the beauty of that upturned face his joints weakened, and down he sat again beside her.

He turned to the girl and said with some desperation:

"I love you, Nell, and ye know it." "O' course I do," returned the girl, mohino "I can't he'p lovin ye."

"I know you can't."

"I loved ye the fust time I ever seed

"Yes, you did that!" "That's jis' why ye treat me like a

dog."
"I don't treat ye like a dog, Tim."

"No, suh, I don't." "I'd like ter know why?"

"Because I'm allers good an pleasant

to my dog." Here the girl laughed aloud; but Tim,

exasperated beyond any further endurance, leaped up, made a rush for his mule, mounted it and dashed furiously away. As the echoes of the mule's hoofe died

out in the night remorse sprang up in the heart of this little mountain coquette.

"Oh, goodness!" she cried, "wonder what got inter him ter treat me that a-way? Jis' jumped up an run off an never sed nothin. He's mad about somethin-I know he is. What could it be? I never seed such a fellow in my life; jis' flies all ter pieces, an a body never kin tell what it's erbout. Well, I reckin it wud be all for the best if he stays mad-if he is mad. Anybody that acks the fool that a-way why they'd be no livin with 'em arter they's married to 'em. I never will speak to him agin. Lordy goodness, I know I never done nothin. Wonder if the girl. he was certain mad and won't never try to make up with me no more?" And the poor, injured little maiden smashed two big tears on her pretty, plump cheeks, crossed the fence, entered the house and went to bed.

As Tim's mule trotted along toward his home his thoughts run something like

"Oh, Lordy Gord! what am I gwine ter do? Life fer me now is a busted gourd layin by the side o' the spring o' happiness. I'll pine an perish in front o' the sweet warters, but cain't never drink em no more. My big feather bed will now be full o' rocks when I lay down on it at night. I'll git up in the mornin feelin sorry I didn't peg out durin sleep. I'll go ter my new ground ter plow, but won't have life enough in me ter cuss when a root hits my shin. The house logs I'd got out ter build a little home fer me an Nell will now rot in the woods. The good milk cow I lately traded fer will go dry. The hogs I bought ter make us meat will wander away an go wild. I ain't got no heart never ter do nothin more. I've got no more confidence in nobody. I thought Nell loved me, an I believe she once did, but she is jis' like

all the critters. When they find out a feller's too sweet on 'em it turns 'em sour," And the great strong man—a weak-ling at this moment—hated up his voice and sang the following stanza of despair:

Fare ye well, my lovin Nellie, I'll bit you adieu, I am ruined forever, By the lovin of you.

"Oh, don't you be a bit frightened, young man, about that girl. Don't l know human nature? Haven't I read the book of humanity from the 'preface' to 'the end,' until every leaf is greasy and yellow with my thumbs? It's my business, young man. From what you tell me about the girl, and the account of your quarrel with her, she is now in the orchard under a tree, lying flat in the grass 'snubbing' about you. She's rubbing tears from the corners of her eyes right now with her apron. She's drawing deep sighs at this moment, and has a chunk in the throat that she can't either get up or down. She'd give the earth and throw in a few other good sized planets to be all right with you Do as I've told you, and if the thing don't work you don't pay me the ten dollars, and I give you leave to kick me clear across the county besides."

The speaker was a traveling peddler and "fortune teller." The gentleman he was addressing, as the reader has guessed, was no other than Tun Holbrook.

"Waal, you better reckon," returned Tim, rubbing his hard hands together in an excess of glee, "of ye can jis' make that ar trick work, ye're not only welcome to the ten dollars, but sixteen head of fine fat shoats besides."

"Git your rope an clear out then, and so will I," impatiently spoke the reservoir of destiny, and off he went toward

the cabin residence of old Bill Copfield. An hour later the "fortune teller" was in front of the Copfield home.

"Hello!" he yelled.

Hello yerself," glumly spoke a young girl, coming out on the porch.

"I'd like to stop with you and get my dinner," he spoke smilingly.

"There won't be no trouble erbout that. Come in. We hain't got nothin much to eat, but erbout az good az I guess yer use' to while yer goin through this country. Have this cheer. Mam, this man wants his dinner. Lemme have your hat, stranger."

A few moments later the fortune teller was at the table. He sat in front of the young girl, and his penetrating eye told him all that he had suspected. He saw the languid droop of her lids. He saw the paths of tears down her cheeks, so dim that they would not have been detected by an eye less observant.

Dinner being concluded, the man asked the "bill." "Nuthin, stranger," simultaneously

spoke mother and daughter. "That is certainly cheap." laughingly

spoke the fortune teller. "Yas," returned Mrs. Copfield, "but it's all we ever charge."

"Well, well," spoke the fortune teller, "I must do something for such a good dinner. I am a fortune teller, and I know the young lady would be pleased to know her fortune. Most young people

would." The young girl colored brightly and said she'd "like awful well to have it told if he could tell."

A cup with coffee grounds staining its sides and bottom was soon revolving in the wizard's practiced fingers. Finally, in tones of deep gravity, he spoke: "Young lady, you are in love."

The girl turned to her mother with an astonished look in her eyes. The mother smiled through the veil of astonishment that covered her features

"You are in love with a young man, spoke the oracle in tones of mystery. You are in love with a young man not far from here. He loves you. You have lately quarreled. He thinks you hate him, and he has made up his mind to kill himself."

"Oh, boohoo! Oh, don't say that!" pleadingly cried the girl.

The fortune teller gazed long into the depths of the cup. Then a frightened look sprang to his face. His eyes spread open like saucers. His breast heaved. His hands clutched together. Finally be spoke, hoarsely: 'Quick, girl! Go to him! Go at once!

He will soon hang himself!" "Oh, Lordy Gord!" screamed the girl,

wringing her hands, "where, oh, where is her

Down the road, I think, Oh, ves. I see him plain. It's under a big oak down the road not over 300 yards away. Go at once and you can save him. Go! go! "Oh, Lord help me! I know just where it is. Will I have time? Oh.

But before the man could answer the girl had leaped the fence and was running down the road like a young fawn. As she neared the great oak she saw her lover climbing up to the first limbs. a new seagrass rope in his hand.

A wild scream broke from the lips of

"Oh, Tim, for God's sake—for my sake, Tim, don't do that. I'll kill myself, too, if you do. Git down! Oh, do git down! I won't never, never do so any more."

The young man, affecting a look of great sadness, leaped to the ground. The girl grabbed his neck in her firm, shapey arms and kissed him passionately.

"Oh, Tim, what made you do this? You know I never done nothin to make ye mad. I'm nearly crazy now. I won't never treat ye mean no more."

"Oh, bully for you, then, little gal!" returned the happy young giant as he drew her quickly toward his big breast. "You talked so awful mean to me that night afore I left that I thought you hated me. I then made up my mind to hang myself. I'd ruther a thousand times over be dead than ter live without ye. You got hur jist in time. I'd er bin dead, stiff an a-grinnin, by this time ef ye hadn't er come-I would jist shore.'

On their way toward the house they met the fortune teller, and the impulsive girl, in the excess of her happiness and gratitude, threw her arms around his neck, while Tim slyly slipped a ten dollar bill into his hand.—James Noel Johnson in Yankee Blade.



POULTRY CONVENIENCES.

A Warm, Comfortable House Coops and Other Chicken Fixings.

The house shown in the accompanying cut combines a double utility with cheapness and warmth. It is ten feet wide and twenty-four feet long, giving room for three flocks. The first floor is three feet from the ground, and the space is left open to the south and to the west as a shed for the fowls to wallow and dust themselves under. It is espe-



ONE ROOF COVERS ALL.

cially valuable in winter. The food and drink are usually placed here. The building is set in a bank so that the first four feet of space, including this shed, is protected by a cemented wall. This also protects from drafts the floor of the laying and roesting apartments.
Small doors lead from this floor onto

inclines, so the birds can go in and out. The ventilators reach to the roof, but do not go through it in the second story. Here the space is occupied by hay, coro fodder or agricultural implements. The building is commonly connected to a barn, so that the storage is convenient. The second floor is easily reached at the north side, as the ground is but four feet from it on the bank. It is probable, says a poultry keeper in the Philadelphia Farm Journal, that the same amount of lumber and roofing cannot be made to furnish larger and more convenient accommodations when built in any other form. Such apartments will be ample for 75 to 100 fowls.

Another poultry grower tells in the same journal that he believes egg and feather eating is caused by the want of grass in summer and hay in winter, and for lack of animal food and clean eartl. He has also observed that a hen in the act of dropping her egg stands nearly upright, and if cramped in a low nest box would be justifiable in never laying another egg. He says:

As I have no man around to help me, I make my own coops and fixings. Here is a cheesebox made into a feed hopper



CHICKEN FIXINGS.

by cutting holes in it big enough for the fowls to get their heads in. The next is a storebox transformed into a brood coop by removing one end and putting in an old window sash. To make it rainproof barrel staves are nailed over the top and covered with old oilcloth. The other estration shows a feeding coop constructed of barrel staves and slats. Each side and the top is a separate section. The sides are held together by tying them at the corners. These and many other articles I make are not things of great beauty, but are cheap and service able. Such conveniences can be manufactured at odd times in winter. Head-less barrels are generally pientiful about the farmer's premises, and boxes can be bought for a very little at the stores.

Soja Bean as a Fodder Crop.

"Will the soja bean come into general use?" was a question asked of the directors of some of the experiment stations and variously answered in The Rural New Yorker. W. W. Cooke, of the Ver-ment station, replied that Vermont is too far north for it. From the New York station Professor J. P. Roberts wrote that the soja bean was not of much use in New York. Not much chance in Connecticut was the tenor of C. A. Wood's letter from the Connecticut station. Charles A. Flagg. of the Rhode Island station, has a good opinion of the soja bean as a soiling crop and thinks it of sufficient value to urge farmers to experiment with it as a soiling crop and where clover won't "catch." Professor Goessman thinks the soja bean good for a Massachusetts silo and is much pleased with the results gained at the station in growing it for a folder crop. A valuable plant for North Carolina is the word from the North Carolina station, where the soja bean is recommended as a valuable addition to profitable quick growing crops. Professor Georgeson, of the Kansas Agricultural college, writes, "I see many reasons why it can be made a profitable crop throughout this state and throughout the west, but especially in the region where the corn crop and tame grasses are uncertain."

Winter Rations for Bees The amount of honey used will depend in part on the strength of the colony-that is, on the number of bees composing it, Some apiculturists claim that from Nov. 1 till Feb. 1 bees will not consume more than one pound of honey per month per hive if the conditions are as they should be. If the temperature of the hive be right the bees will be in a semidormant state, rousing themselves once in every four or five days to cat food. They complete their feast and then settle down for another long sleep of four or five days' duration. In February the bees awake partially and begin breeding, though very weakly at first. In March they begin to breed in earnest, and being more active much more food is required. INDIANA'S ROAD CONGRESS

The General Assembly Will He Asked to Repeal the Prescut Rend Laws,

The recent Indiana road congress was credit to the state and as a first step toward a much needed reform was en-tirely successful. The attendance was large and representative, the papers were for the most part able and practical, and the discussions were interesting and profitable. If the latter were at times somewhat discursive and scattering this was to be expected in the opening up of a new subject, and it was noticeable that the congress soon got back to the business in hand. It had a fitting conclusion in the for-

mation of an organization to be known as the Indiana Highway Improvement association, and the election of officers who will take care that the movement so anspiciously begun is not allowed to die through neglect or inaction, for it must be understood that the work of highway improvement is but just begun, and the organization has many years of work before it in bringing public sentiment throughout the state up to the intelligent and progressive standard of that which permeated the convention. It can be done, however, and the public welfare demands that it shall be.

The report of the legislative committes, which was finally adopted by the convention, and which the general assembly will be asked to enact is a radical departure from the present system. In fact it proposes to repeal the present road laws in toto and to substitute an entirely new system. It abolishes the office of district supervisor, and also the functions now exercised by township trustees in connection with roads.

In place of these the commissioners of each county are to appoint a county superintendent of highways and one supervisor for each township. The supervisors are to have charge of the construction of roads in their respective townships, subject to the control of the county superintendent, and the superintendent and supervisors in each county, in connection with the civil engineer of any city in the county, are to constitute a county board of supervisors of high-ways, which shall meet once a year to discuss road improvements and fir the discuss road improvements and fir the In place of these the commissioners of ways, which shall meet once a year to discuss road improvements and fix the rate of taxation for road purposes. Road taxes are to be paid like other

taxes and not worked out, and are to be fairly apportioned between cities and the country. These are the main fentures of the system adopted by the congress and which the legislature will be asked to enact. Whether it shall meet the approval of the legislature or not, The Journal thinks it was wise for the congress to agree on some definite plan. The organization can now go before the legislature with a request for definite action, and if that body does not approve of the plan proposed it can modify it or adopt some other. The main thing is to have it impressed

on the public and the legislature that the present system is radically defective and that a change is imperatively demanded. Perhaps the worst feature of the present law is that which allows road taxes to be worked out, though the district supervisor system is almost equally bad in that it places the construction of roads in the charge of persons who, as a rule, are utterly incompetent. No road law can be made effective that does not provide for the payment of the road tax in money and for placing the control of roadbuilding in competent hands.

One of the best results of the congress was the distinct and emphatic recognition of this idea. On the whole, the people of Indiana are to be congratulated on the successful inauguration of a movement which under proper management may and probably will become an important factor in the progress and de-velopment of the state.—Indianapolis Journal.

Plans of the National League.

The officers of the National League for Good Roads desire to give the widest publicity to the following summary of the present plans of the league:

i. To combine, as far as practicable, the efforts of all persons now engaged in the work for road reform.

2. To awaken interest in the subject among the people at large.

3. To receive, publish and discuss any well considered pians for local, state or national

action or legislation.

4. To urge the passage by the house of representatives of the sonate's bill for a national

highway.

5. To said in providing for a proper road ex-

5. To sail in providing for a proper road exhibit and for free instruction in roadmaking at the World's fair in Chicago.

6. To establish the league upon the broadest possible basis throughout the country, so that its influence may be of weight in any direction. Its influence may be of weight in any direction in which it may ultimately be thrown.

The temporary management does not feel authorized to adopt any line of policy nor commit the league to any special scheme which might antagonize the partisans of others, and thus defeat its immediate purpose to unite and solidity the movement.

The immediate formation of county leagues to recommended as size of the processing of the proc

is recommended as a step toward the spread of the organization into township and school dis-tricts. County secretaries will be appointed by the state boards upon the recommendation of prominent citizens.

Until the state boards are fully organized all

correspondence will be conducted through the general headquarters, 46 Broadway, New York. All state, county and local leagues are at liberty to act independently in local matters of read improvement, and will be supported by the national organization as far as is practi-

The Ideal Roadway. The ideal surface for the wheel is that

which is obtained in a continuous steel bar of a well constructed railway. The aim in the common road is as nearly as possible to approach the conditions which are afforded by such a track. Every irregularity of the surface on which the wheel bears, whether it be on the axle or the tire, is an element of cost, and is invariably found in the bill of repairs, whether it come on town or private account. A pebble in the road over which the wagon has to be lifted requires an expenditure of power in traction to win the height, and when the wheel falls it strikes the roadway like a trip hammer, damaging road and wagon alike. In the present or any probable state of our roadmaking art it appears to be impossible to give wagons the conditions of a metal tramway. This ideal has to be approached in the best manner possible by making the tracks of some strong material found near the line of the road—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

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Meets at their ball at Wright's Brissecoul Saturday of each month a Fellow members made welcome.

BEUNEN WRIGHT
N. H. DARNALL. Sec. MEADE RELIEF CORPS. No. 18, MENT OF OREGON.

Mrs. M. M. Charman.
Mrs. F. I. Cochrane.
Mrs. J. B. Harding.
Meets on first and third Friday month in K. of P. Hall. Membel from abroad, cordially welcomed.

ACIGILLES LODGE, NO. 38, K. Meets every Friday night at the K CHAR ALBRIGHT, JR., J. E. RHODES, K. C