At Christmas time the fields are white And hill and valley all bedight With snowy spiendor, while on high The black crows sail athwart the sky, Mourning for summer days gone by At Christmas time.

At Christmas time the air is chill And frozen lies the babbling rili; While sobbingly the trees make mean For leafy greenness once their own, For blossoms dead and birdlings flown At Christmas tir

At Christmas time we dock the hall With helly branches brave and tall, With sturdy pine and hemlock bright, And in the yule log's dancing light We tell old tales of field and fight At Christmas time.

At Christmas time we pile the board With flesh and fruit and vintage stored, And mid the laughter and the glow, We trend a measure soft and slow, And kiss beneath the mistletoe At Christmas time.

O Ged, and Father of us all, Consort and rainer of us all, List to thy lowliest creature's call, Give of thy joy to high and low, Comfort the sorrowing in their woe, Make wars to cease and love to grow At Christmas time.

Let not one heart be sad today. May every child be glad and gay. Bless thou thy children great and small. In lowly but or eastle hall. And may each soul keep festival

At Christmas time.
- New York Tribune.

TYPEWRITTEN.

When a man has battled with poverty all his life, fearing it as he fought it, feeling for the skinny throat to throttle it, and yet dreading all the while the coming of the time when it would gain the mastery and throttle him-when such a man is told that he is rich, it might be imagined he would receive the announcement with hilarity. When Richard Denham realized that he was wealthy he became even more sobered than usual, and drew a long breath as if he had been running a race and had won it. The man who brought him the news had no idea he had told Denham anything novel. He merely happened to to you. and will never miss it."

Denham had never before been called a rich man, and up to that moment he ad not thought of himself as wealthy. He wrote out the check asked of him, and his visitor departed gratefully, leaving the merchant with something to ponder over. He was as surprised with the suddenness of the thing as if some one had left him a legacy. Yet the money was all his own accumulating, but his struggle had been so long, and he had been so hopeless about it, that from mere habit he exerted all his energies long after the enemy was overcome -just as the troops at New Orleans fought a fierce battle not knowing the war was over. He had sprung from such a hopelessly poor family. Poverty had been their inheritance from generation to generation. It was the invariable legacy that father had left to son in the Denham family.

All had accepted their lot with uncomplaining resignation, until Richard resolved he would at least have a fight for And now the fight has been won. Denham sat in his office staring at the dingy wall paper so long that Rogers, the chief clerk, put his head in and said in a deferential voice:

"Anything more tonight. Mr. Den-

Denham started as if that question in that tone had not been asked him every "What's that, what's that?" he cried.

trained to show it. "Anything more tonight, Mr. Den-

"Ah, quite so. No, Rogers, thank

you, nothing more.' "Good night, Mr. Denham."

"Eh? Oh, yes. Good night, Rogers,

good night.

When Mr. Denham left his office and went out into the street everything had an unusual appearance to him. He walked slong, unheeding the direction. He looked at the fine residences and realized that he might have a fine residence if he wanted it. He saw handsome carriages; he, too, might set up an equipage. The satisfaction these thoughts produced was brief. Of what use would a fine house or an elegant carriage be to him? He knew no one to invite to the house or to ride with him in the carriage. He began to realize how utterly alone in the world he was. He had no friends, no acquaintances even. The running dog. with its nose to the ground, sees nothing of the surrounding scenery. He knew men in a business way of course, and doubtless each of them had a home in the suburbs somewhere, but he could not take a business man by the shoulders and say to him: "Invite me to your house. I am lonesome; I want to know your people."

If he got such an invitation he would not know what to do with himself. He was falailiar with the counting room and its language, but the drawing room was an unexplored country to him, where an unknown tongue was spoken. On the road to wealth he had missed something, and it was now too late to go back for it. Only the day before he had heard one of the clerks, who did not know he was within earshot, allude to him as "the old man." He felt as young as ever he did, but the phrase so lightly spoken made him catch his breath.

As he was now walking through the park and away from the busy streets he took off his hat and ran his fingers through his grizzled hair, looking at his hand when he did so as if the gray, like wet paint, had come off. He thought of a girl he knew once, who perhaps would have married him if he had asked her, as he was tempted to do. But that had afways been a mistake of the Denhama. They had all married young except himself and so sunk deeper into the mire of poverty, pressed down by a rapidly increasing progeny. The girl had married a baker, he remembered. Yes, that was a long time ago. The clerk was not far wrong when he called him an old men,

Suddenly another girl arose before lus sental vision—a modern girl—very different indeed from the one who had mar-

ried the baker. She was the only weman in the world with whom he was on speaking terms, and he knew her morely because her light and numble fingers played the business sonata of one note on his office typewriter. Miss Gale was pretty of course-all typewriter girls are and it was generally understood in the office that she belonged to a good family who had come down in the world. Her somewhat independent air deepened this conviction and kept the clerks at a dis-She was a sensible girl, who realized that the typewriter paid better than the piano, and accordingly turned the expertness of her wnite tangers to the former instrument. Richard Denham sat down upon a park bench. "Why not?" he asked himself. There was no reason against it except that he had not the courage. Nevertheless he formed a desperate resolution.

Next day business went on as usual. Letters were answered and the time arrived when Miss Gale came into see if he had any further commands that day, Denham hesitated. He felt vaguely that a business office was not the proper place for a proposal, yet he knew that he would be at a disadvantage anywhere else. In the first place, he had no plausible excuse for calling upon the young woman at bome, and in the second place, he knew if he once got there he would be stricken dumb. It must either be at his office or nowhere.

"Sit down a moment, Miss Gale," he said at last; "I wanted to consult you about a matter-about a business mat-

Miss Gale seated herself and automatically placed on her knee the shorthand writing pad, ready to take down his instructions. She looked up at him expectantly. Denham, in an embarrassed

manner, ran his fingers through his hair.
"I am thinking," he began, "of taking
a partner. The business is very prosperous now. In fact it has been for some time.

"Yes?" said Miss Gale interrogatively. "Yes. I think I should have a partner. It is about that I wanted to speak

"Don't you think it would be better to consult with Mr. Rogers? He knows more about business than L. But perhaps it is Mr. Rogers who is to be the partner? "No, it is not Rogers. Rogers is

good man, but-it is not Rogers." Then I think in an important matter like this Mr Rogers, or some one who knows the business as thoroughly as he does, would be able to give advice that would be of some value.

"I don't want advice exactly I have made up my mind to have a partner, if the partner is willing."

Denham mopped his brow. It was going to be even more difficult than he d anticipated. "Is it then a question of the capital

the partner is to bring in?" asked Miss Gale, anxious to help him "No, no. I don't wish any capital. I

have enough for both. And the business is very prosperous, Miss Gale-andand has been

The young woman raised her eyebrows in surprise. 'You surely don't intend to share the

profits with a partner who brings no capital into the business?" "Yes-yes, I do You see, as I said, I

have no need for more capital."

"Oh, if that is the case, I think you should consult Mr Rogers before you commit yourself."

"But Rogers wouldn't understand." 'I'm afraid I don't understand either seems to me a foolish thing to dothat is, if you want my advice.

"Oh, yes. I want it. But it isn't as foolish as you think. I should have had a partner long ago. That is where I made the mistake. I've made up my mind on that."

"Then I don't see that I can be of any use if your mind is already made up. "Oh. yes, you can. I'm a little afraid that my offer may not be accepted."

"It is sure to be if the man has any sense. No fear of such an offer being refused. Offers like that are not to be had every day It will be accepted."
"Do you really think so. Miss Gale? I

am glad that is your opinion Now what I want to consult you about is the form of the offer. I would like to put itwell-delicately, you know, so that it

would not be refused nor give offense." "I see. You want me to write a letter

"Exactly, exactly," cried Denham with some relief. He had not thought of sending a letter before. Now he wondered why he had not thought of it. It was so evidently the best way out of a situation that was extremely disconcert-

'Have you spoken to him about it?' "To him? What him?"

"To your future partner about the proposal?

"No, no. Oh, no. That is-I have spoken to nobody but you." "And you are determined not to speak

to Mr. Rogers before you write? "Certainly not. It's none of Rogers' business." "Oh, very well," said Miss Gale short-

ly, bending over her writing pad. It was evident that her opinion of Denham's wisdom was steadily lowering.

Suddenly she looked up "How much shall I say the annual

profits are? Or do you want that men-

"I-I dor't think I would mention that. You see, I don't wish this arrangement to be carried out on a monetary basis-not altogether."

"On what basis then!" "Well-I can hardly say. On a per-

sonal basis perhaps. I rather hope that the person-that my partner-would, you know, like to be associated with me." "On a friendly basis, do you mean?" asked Miss Gale, mercilessly

"Certainly. Friendly, of course-and perhaps more than that." Miss Gale looked up at him with a cer-

tain hopelessness of expression. "Why not write a note inviting your future partner to call upon you here or anywhere else that would be convenient and then discuss the matter?"

Denham looked frightened. "I thought of that, but it wouldn't do. No; it wouldn't do. I would much rather IMPROVEMENT OF COUNTRY ROADS.

settle everything by correspondence."
"I am afraid I shall not be able to compose a letter that will suit you. There seem to be so many difficulties. It is very unusual."

"That is true, and that is why I knew no one but you could help me, Miss Gale. If it pleases you it will please me."

Miss Gale shook her head, but after a few moments she said. "How will this dol "Dear sir"-

'Wait a moment!" cried Mr. Denham; "that seems rather a formal opening. doesn't it? How would it rend if you put it 'Dear friend?" 'If you wish it so." She crossed out

the "sir" and substituted the word suggested. Then she read the letter:

"DEAR FRIEND-I have for some time past been desirous of taking a partner, and would be glad if you would consider the question and consent to join me in this business. The business is, and has been for several years, very prosperous, and as I shall require no capital from you I think you will find my offer a very advantageous one. I

'I-I don't think I would put it quite that way," said Denham, with some hesitation. "It reads as if I were offering everything, and that my partnerwell, you see what I mean

'It's the truth," said Miss Gale, de-

Better put it on the friendly basis, as you suggested a moment ago."

"I didn't suggest anything, Mr. Denwant it. I knew I could not write one that would piease you."

"It does ; use me, but I'm thinking of my future partner. You are doing first rate-better than I could do. just put it on the friendly basis." A moment later she read:

-"join me in this business. I make you this offer entirely from a friendly and not from a financial standpoint, hoping that you like me well enough to be associated with me. "Anything else, Mr. Denham?"

'No. I think that covers the whole ground. It will look rather short, typewritten, won't it? Perhaps you might add something to show that I shall be exceedingly disappointed if my offer is not accepted."

No fear." said Miss Gale. "Til add that though. 'Yours truly,' or 'Yours very truly?

'You might end it 'Your friend.' " The rapid click of the typewriter was

heard for a few moments in the next room and then Miss Gale came out with the completed letter in her hand. Shall I have the boy copy it?" she

'Oh, bless you, no," answered Mr. Denham with evident trepidation.

The young woman said to herself: "He doesn't want Mr. Rogers to know, and no wonder It's a most unbusinesslike proposal

Then she said aloud, "Shall you want me again today?"

'No, Miss Gale, and thank you very much. Next morning Miss Gale came into

Mr Denham's office with a smile on her You made a funny mistake last night,

Mr Denham," she said as she took off "Did if" he asked in alarm.

Yes. You sent that letter to my address. I got it this morning. I opened it, for I thought it was for me, and that perhaps you did not need me today. But saw at once that you put it in the wrong envelope Did you want me today?

It was on his tongue to say, "I want you every day." but he merely held out his hand for the letter and looked at it as if he could not account for its having gone astray.

The next day Miss Gale came late and she looked frightened. It was evident that Denham was losing his mind. She put the letter down before him and said You addressed that to me the second time, Mr. Denham.

There was a look of haggard anxiety about Mr. Denham that gave color to her suspicions. He felt that it was now or never

Then why don't you answer it, Miss Gale?" he said gruffly.

She backed away from him. 'Answer it?" she repeated faintly. 'Certainly If I got a letter twice, I

would answer it." "What do you mean?" she cried, with ber hand on the door knob.

"Exactly what the letter says. I want you for my partner I want to marry you, and -financial considerations'

"Oh," cried Miss Gale in a long drawn, quivering sigh. She was doubtless shocked at the word he had used and fled to her typewriting room, closing the door behind her.

Richard Denham paced up and down the floor for a few minutes, then rappod lightly at her door, but there was no re sponse. He put on his hat and went out into the street. After a long and aimless walk he found himself again at his place of business. When he went in Rogers said to him:

Miss Galo has left, sir." "Has she?" "Yes, and she has given notice. Says

she is not coming back." "Very well." He went into his room and found a

letter marked "Personal" on his desk. He tore it or en and read in neatly typewritten characters: I have resurred my place as typewriter girl,

e resumed my place as typewriter gir, been offered a better situation. I am a not orally in the house of Richard a not orally in the house of Richard a secount of its financial attrac-ishall be glad, on a friendly writed with the gentleman I. have a by did you put me to all that worr, were a lost bilotic letter when a few words were availed to sure the want a few You evident; sed a partner. My mother will be pleased to a set you say time you call. You have the address. Your friend. Manganer Galg.

"Rogers!" shouted Denham, joyfully, "Yes, sir," answered the estimable man, putting his head into the room.

"Advertise for another typewriter girl, Rogers." "Yes, sir," said Rogers. - Robert Barr in Detroit Free Press

The State Should Pay for the Stem Boads and the County for the Branches The Philadelphia Press speaks edito-

rially as follows: The work of road construction and road improvement belongs to the state, or at least to the counties. New Jersey has an optional system of road improvement by the counties, and where it has been adopted it has given great satisfaction. The improved roads constructed under this law have added immensely to the attractiveness of the counties, increased their population, and toe assessed value of their real estate has risen to a degree which more than pays the cost of the roads.

In the opinion of The Ledger, "the Philadelphia theory that the property owners along the line of a road should be assessed for the first cost of its improvement and that the county keep it in repair after is the best one." This is the rule for municipal street improve-ment all over the state. Where land is priced by the foot and properties are ham. Perhaps it would be better if you either very small or very valuable this would dictate the letter exactly as you rule works fairly well, though as applied to suburban land it is often very oppressive. As applied to farm lands it would often mean confiscation.

> either piles up a mountain of debt or in: diminishing farm earnings.

where we call them streets or avenues. and that is the reason why a team of horses can draw trucks and loads of such weight, and do it easily, as would give any team on a country road a sufficient excuse for becoming balky. If the country roads were what they ought to be the farmers would save much wear and tear of wagons and horses and be able to carry larger loads to market, and city folks who go out walking or driving for pleasure and health would be able to secure both

Even in rainy weather traveling would not be unpleasant. Certainly it would not be dangerous or tiresome, as it is now, in the bad spots or bad roads, and pedestrianism, equestrianism and vehicular travel would be largely encouraged and the people's knowledge of other people and other places than those about them would be largely increased by personal observation, and these are both very desirable ends to week

The trackless forest belongs to the savage state, the footpath to the barbarian but a good road is a mark and a triumph of civilization. It not only encourages frequent, perhaps constant, intercourse among the people; it also helps trade, and the interchange of commodities is as important as the interchange of opinion. There may be some who think this statement a little overdrawn, so far as the influence of good roads is concerned, but they must be of the sort who never make use of roads, except railroads.—Brooklyn Citizen.

Points in Boad Construction.

over a highway is an important element in determining both the width and character of the construction. The main point to be ascertained is the number. weight and width of the carriages of all kinds which are to traverse the way. If the traffic is likely to be large, the road will need greater width and more strength near its margins than where it is to serve the need of but few vehicles. The solitary driver may be trusted to take the middle of the way, horses indeed incline to do so of their own motion; thus the marginal wearing of the road will be limited to those points where vehicles pass each other, and the whole amount of such wearing will be inconsiderable. Where, however, the carriages are numerous they often drive in parallel lines, the outer wheel of each column on the margin of the roadbed .-Selected.

Economy of Good Roads. At a recent meeting of the Farmers'

New York C. L. Allen, a Long Island farmer, gave the following testimony:

He stated that notwithstanding their strong objections made at the time the new Jamaica road was built the farmers, who had to pay the tax, now felt satisfied that the move had been a most wise one. Farm wagons loaded with produce for the New York market now hauled loads of three tons where formerly over the old roads they could hardly put on half that much, and the three tons were now easier to haul than the ton and a half had been-a state of affairs that was sufficiently proved by the fact that the farmers had always been compelled to send a "tow" team over a great part of the old roads, whereas now they sent their produce right through

Seeds DETROIT

The defect of this optional system is that only the more intelligent and progressive counties adopt it. Those which need it worst are fearful that the experiences of other counties will not be repeated in their case, and they are content to wallow along in the old way up to the hubs in mud in wet months and stiffed with dust in the dry, their roads an of-fense and a burden from stupidity and ignorance, and persisted in from generation to generation from mere inertia.

In mountain regions, where land is not very valuable and roadmaking is costly, this city rule of assessment is not to be thought of. Its principle is wrong as applied to stem roads connecting county seats and large towns. Such roads should be well built at a heavy first cost. The farmers along the road would benefit by them, but so would the inhabitants of the city, which is largely the gainer by improved means of access to it.

The whole public is the gainer by the construction of durable, well graded, smooth roads, and the whole public should pay. The state should pay for stem roads which cross county lines, the county for branch roads that begin and end in the county, but are not purely local, and the cities, boroughs and townships for the roads wholly within their limits. Any other rule for good road construction poverishes the rural landholders, who will resist to the death the advent of good reads if they must be paid for out of their

Good Reads Promote Trade.

We have good roads in the cities.

The nature of the traffic which is to go

Club of the American Institute held in

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J. T. A. P. P. R. S. S. S. L. O. C. F. S. S. L. O. C. F. Meets every Thursday even. og at 7.30 octors

F. M. in the Odd Fellows Hall. Mails street Members of the Order are invited to attend by Order of W. A. Mulleton, N. O. Thos. Byan, Sworetaff.

FALLS ENCAMPMENT, No. 8, 1, 0, 0, 2, Massa first and third Tuesday sof each month (Odd Fellows hall, Members and visible affairs, ourding invited to attend to B. Jansey J. W. Gelowneth, Scribe Chlef Patriare.

OSWEGO LODGE NO St. I. O. O. F

Meris at Odd Fellow's hall Oswegs, even
saturday avening Visiting brethren make
welcome.

J. F. RISLEY, Sec.

MEADE POST, No. 2 G. A. B., DEPARTMENT OF OREGON.
Meets first Monday of each month, at K. d.
P. Hall, Oregon City. Visiting comrades make J. P. SHAW, Adj.

GEN. CROOK POST, No. 22 G. A. H., De are nasmt of Oregon.

Meets in sechool house at Nordy on first fisturing in each mouth at 2 o'clook p. m. All commades made velocine Jacon Spouls.

J. Karstades, Adjt. Commander. PIG TRON LODGE NO. 128, A. O. U. W.

Meets every Thursday evening at Odd Fellow hall, Oswego. Visiting brethren always sel-come.

R. Strauss, Recorder J. U. Camenti. MOLALA LODGE, No. 49, A. O. U. W. Meets. First. and Third Saturday in each mouth, at school house. Visiting members made welcome.

T. S. Stree, M. W.

MOLALLA GRANGE, NO. 40, P. of R. Mosts at their hall at Wright's Bridge on the second Saturday of each menth at 10 a. m Fellow members made welcome.

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

Mrs. M. M. Charman, President
Mrs. F. L. Cochrane, Treasurer,
Mrs. J. B. Harding,
Meets on first and third Fridays of each
month in H. of P. Hall. Members of corps
from ahroad, cordially welcomed.

ACHILLES LODGE, NO. 38, K OF P. Meets every Friday night at the K. of P, hall Visiting Knighta invited. CHAS, ALBRIGHT, JR., C. C. J. E. RHODES, K. of R. and S.