

SUMMER BOARDERS.

A Rustic Host's Experience With an Eight-Dollars-a-Week Guest.

"Git up'n ride," he said as he brought the oxen to a halt and moved along on the seat. "Come fur? Goin' to the village? Whoa! there, Buck, what ye 'fraid of! That 'ere off ox allus foals as frisky as a calf and it needs old Bright to balance him. Ain't a patent-right man, are ye? Thought not. Mobbe, ye are lookin' fur summer boarder?"

He rattled along in an honest, confidential way for a few minutes longer, and then suddenly changed the subject by saying:

"Stranger, I've had experience with summer boarders, and I wouldn't take one into the house to-day for forty dollars a week. I moved up here about ten years ago. I'd just got married to a thimble's smart w'dder, and we got settled in our house airy in the spring. One day when I come in from work Lucinda says to me:

"Samuel—that's my name, you know—It's got the brightest idea you ever heard of. Let's take a few summer boarders this year."

"Flies and lasses, but who be they?" says I.

"I don't know yet. We'll fix up our two spare rooms and advertise in the city papers to accommodate a few summer boarders. We can make enough money in three months to buy that ten-acre lot of old Johnson."

"But we haint got nuthin' to feed 'em on."

"Indeed, we have. Them city folks who stuffs their stomachs on the richness of the land will come out here for a change. All they'll want will be fried eggs, oat-meal, rhubarb pie and old-fashioned sweet cake. They'll go into fits over our old table cloths, cracked dishes and plain furniture. They'll swal over every thing down as rustic and old-fashioned, and we'll charge 'em six dollars a week apiece."

"I hung off fur awhile, but Lucinda is a great prevailor, and she finally prevailed on me to give my consent. When ever I got a spare hour I helped her tuggle up the furniture. I had to nail up bedsteads, put extra logs to the chens, stop up rat-holes, stain over the boards with walnut juice, and do various other things to make ready. I give Lucinda two purty good hoss-blankets to make rustic rugs for the floors, and we cut up some old sheets for window curtains, and by the use of thirty cents worth of red, white and blue shelf paper we made them rooms look what you might call Jim Handy. Hang it, stranger, when I come to look 'em over I felt as proud as a peacock, and the hug I give Lucinda brought the tears to her eyes."

"Wall, the last thing to be made was a rustic cheer, and I just got up and humped myself on it. It was Lucinda's idea you know. She said the city folks had got so tired of sittin' around on the stuffed cheers that they'd sink into a rustic cheer with a grunt of satisfaction which could be heard a mile away. I drew up a wagon load of limbs and branches, bought five pounds of nails and a pound of glue, and in about a week's time I had the all-fired, neest rusticst cheer you ever sot eyes on. We put it in what Lucinda called the Queen Anna room, and then every thing was ready for boarders. We advertised in the city papers to the amount of eight dollars, and one aft noon a young, solemn-faced chap, who looked as if he hadn't two days to live, came paddling up the dusty road in search of summer board, and Lucinda took him in. He looked at the rooms, and we thought he grew more solemn. He had some pork and Johnny cake and New Orleans molasses and two-shillin' tea for supper, and there was no doubt of his being more solemn."

"I forgot what Lucinda was to charge that chap a week, with the privilege of walking in the barnyard, wadin' in the swamp and climbin' the dead apple trees, but it wasn't fur from eight dollars. He sot around fur a spell in the evening to 'hear the lowin' of the kine,' whatever that is, and to 'commune with tired nature,' whatever that may be, and then he retired to the Queen Anna room."

"Stranger, we never saw that man alive no more. He didn't come down when the pork and taters was ready in the mornin', and after awhile I went up to arouse him, thinkin' that the lowin' of the kine and the bellerin' of the oxen had charmed him. He was dead—dead as a door-nail. Wust of all, he had sot down in that rustic cheer and died afore he could git up. The coroner said the cause of his death was too much rusticity and Queen Anna."

"Was that the end of it?"

"Yes. He hadn't a penny in his pockets, and I buried him at my own expense. When we got back from the burial I says to Lucinda:

"Lucinda, let the city folks continue to rot on their stuffed cheers and gorge their stomachs with sweet cakes and preserves. We'll Queen Anna these duds out the house and make our money on pumpkins! Whoa, there, you old sinner! Can't you see a streaked snake without jumpin' outer yer hide?"—*At Quad in Detroit Free Press.*

PROGRESS OF MEDICINE.

What the Most Progressive of Sciences Has Accomplished in Fifty Years.

There is still, no doubt, a vast amount of suffering and disease among us, but it would be folly to deny that the difference between the past and the present is immense. The stethoscope has made it as easy to detect a damaged heart or an inefficient lung as a broken leg. The ophthalmoscope enables us to explore the innermost recesses of the eye, while with the laryngoscope we can have ocular proof of the condition of the windpipe. The microscope enlightens us to the true nature of growths, and such timely information often makes it possible to check their development. Anesthetics have robbed surgery of all its cruelty and half its danger; they have, moreover, extended its sphere of action, for operations are now frequently performed which formerly could not have been attempted. The introduction of the antiseptic method has largely increased the proportion of recoveries after severe wounds and mutilations, and has also done much to insure the safety of the

ying-in chamber. The necessity of cutting for stone is now obviated by measures which involve neither pain nor serious risk, and there can be little doubt that the operation will in the course of the next fifty years become obsolete in civilized countries. Small-pox is no longer the standing menace to beauty that it once was, while it is scarcely taken into account as a possible danger of life by ordinary people. Typhoid fever still claims many victims, though it is being gradually driven off the field by an enlightened hygiene; typhus is almost unknown except in the lowest and most squalid haunts of poverty. Madness is now treated as a bodily disease, not as a curse of God or spite of the devil, the result being a large proportion of recoveries, and infinitely less suffering among the incurable. A like improvement is seen in other branches of the medical art. The loathsome compounds—invented, one might suppose, by a council of ghouls and scavengers—which used to be ordered, no longer vex the palates or upheave the stomachs of unfortunate patients; the active principle of the most important remedies has been separated, so that the agent can be administered in a purer and more efficient form, while the physiological action of the drug is determined by experiment and is taken as the index of its therapeutic value. Less physic is given, but it is prescribed with a clearer purpose. Better still, more attention is paid to diet and the hygienic surroundings of the patient, and above all, nature is less incumbered with the officious help of a blind ally who insists on aiding her with a zeal that is not according to knowledge. The truth has at last been borne in on the medical mind that many diseases run a certain definite course on which no medicine has any effect for good, though it may have for evil, and that accordingly a policy of masterly inactivity is the wisest in such cases. The physical changes wrought by disease and the morbid process which give rise to them are now to a certain extent accurately known, and the field of inquiry promises to be increasingly fruitful of solid result. Some scattered rays of light, too, are beginning to pierce the shroud of darkness which formerly made the origin of disease a more impenetrable mystery than the source of the Nile. This marks one of the greatest advances in the history of medicine, and its practical importance is obviously incalculable. The cause clearly known, the effect can often be removed, or, better still, prevented. Specific fevers may possibly be banished from among men, and even those fell scourges, consumption and cancer, may in course of time be stamped out. One disease after another is traced to the action of organisms infinitesimal in size, but having an almost inconceivable power of self-multiplication. From leprosy to a cold in the head the "conqueror worm" is credited with the generation of almost every form of disorder; where it has not yet been found it is suspected. In a word, the sign Bacillus is in the ascendant in the medical firmament.—*Fortnightly Review.*

THE BAOBAB TREE.

Its Branches Forming a Miniature Forest to a Distance of a Hundred Feet.

We read wonderful stories of the immense trees one sees in California, but they sink into insignificance beside the Baobab tree, which is found in many parts of Western Africa. It is not distinguished for its extraordinary height, which rarely reaches over one hundred feet, but it is the most imposing and magnificent of African trees; many, it is said, are over one hundred feet in circumference, rising like a dwarf tower from twenty to thirty feet, and then throwing out branches like a miniature forest to a distance of one hundred feet, the extremities of the branches bending towards the ground. The botanical name of this curious tree is *Adansonia digitata*. The first, in honor of its discoverer, Adanson; and the second, descriptive of its five-parted leaf. The leaves are large, abundant and of a dark green color, divided into five lanceolate leaflets. The flowers are large and white, hanging to peduncles of a yard in length, which forms a striking contrast to the leaves. The fruit is a soft, pulpy, dry substance about the size of a citron, enclosed in a long green pod; the pulp between the seeds tastes like cream of tartar, and this pulp, as well as the pressed juice from the leaves, is used by the native Africans for flavoring their food. The juice is greatly relished as a beverage, and is considered a remedy in putrid fevers and other diseases. The Baobab tree is said to attain a much greater age than any other tree, thousands of years being hazarded as the term of life of some specimens. It has extraordinary vitality; the bark, which is regularly stripped off to be made up into ropes, nets for fishing, trapping and native clothing, speedily grows again. It dies from a very peculiar disease—a softening of its woody structure—and it falls by its own weight a mass of ruins. The native villages are generally built around one of these immense trees and under its far spreading branches, which form an agreeable shelter from the sun, is the "Kotta," or place of assemblage, where all the public business of the tribe is transacted.—*American Agriculturist.*

An American Drama of To-day.

The Actress—A new play? Pray don't ask me to read it. Can't you give me a synopsis of the most striking incidents?

The Author—With pleasure. In the first act there is a corn-colored silk costume. In the second there are two dresses, including the very latest wraps and parasols. The interest in the third act falls off to a riding habit, but in the fourth and fifth acts there are no less than three complete costumes, and all made by Worth. I think it will be a success.

The Actress—Name your price, sir. I'll take it.—Philadelphia Call.

—Three young men of Boston recently rode their bicycles from that city to New Orleans, a distance of one thousand seven hundred miles.

CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS.

Experiments with Various Kinds of Commercial Fertilizing Materials.

We are always on the watch for some new means of increasing the fertility of the soil. How to do this to the best advantage is the all-important question. Every year brings us a certain amount of new theory and practice and we are often reminded of the fact that all changes are not improvements. An effort is now being made to induce the farmers of Long Island to apply ground limestone as a fertilizer instead of more expensive materials. Our neighbors are disposed to experiment with it and learn its true value by experiment. This is not a new idea. Some years since this substance was extensively advertised and its merits rated very high. For some time these advertisements have disappeared. It was then claimed by some writers that this substance was insoluble, and if put in the ground would remain there for ages without change. This same thing is said of the ground phosphate when not acidulated. Inasmuch as this phosphate is extensively used with or without acid, every farmer should know the exact truth of this matter. The Carolina phosphate is ground and sold as a coarse powder, and as a powder so fine that it will float in the atmosphere (hence called floats), and also dissolved by sulphuric acid. Now the facts are, the finer it is the quicker its action. The acid reduces it to the finest condition, and hence the acidulated acts sooner than the floats and the floats sooner than the coarse powder. Now there is a class of men that sell the acid phosphate, that tell as the phosphates in other forms is worthless, as it is perfectly insoluble and will remain so. They say this phosphate in its native bed has been in contact with water for ages and never changed and never will change until acted upon by some powerful solvent. Now this same thing may be said of plaster (sulphate of lime) which is only ground and extensively used as a fertilizer with great benefit. There is probably no rock known but will dissolve when powdered and applied to the soil. In England they are grinding granite and using it in this way, and it may be that this will yet be one main source of potash, as it is well known this element abounds in granite. How much force the action of the acids of the soil have in producing these changes we do not know; nor do we know how much to attribute to electrical and magnetic as well as chemical changes. We do not know enough on this subject to calculate that we may profitably apply the phosphates in either form. As to this lime powder nothing but an experiment will determine its value, but what we do know of chemistry and botany teaches us to put no estimate on a part of its claims. It is claimed that a large percent of it is carbon, and as a large portion of the plant is carbon, this furnishes the food it needs. Now the growing plant is constantly taking in carbonic acid from the air, emitting the oxygen and retaining its carbon, the natural inference is that the plant gets all the carbon it needs from the air. Still it is not certain but that more carbon in the soil would be a benefit. This is often debated in agricultural papers when it is evident neither party knows and it is guess work on both sides. It seems that our men of science might permanently settle such a plain question. As to the phosphate, when it is acidulated, it requires pound for pound of phosphate and acid, so that when we buy a ton of acid phosphate we get but half a ton of phosphate. If the acid phosphate acts more quickly its effects are also gone sooner. Now these floats are so fine that their action is not slow and they are so cheap, especially as compared to standard fertilizer, that they will generally be found profitable. The price of standard ferd fertilizers is too high, and until reduced we must continue to experiment with chemicals.—*Cor. Christian at Work.*

CULTIVATION OF CROPS.

Advantage Derived from Keeping the Soil Loose and Mellow.

The chief object in cultivation is to keep the ground loose and mellow—to supply the most favorable conditions for the growth of the roots of the plants in their search for plant food. A secondary object is to prevent the growth of weeds. If weeds are allowed to form roots so much plant food will be taken up and appropriated to the growth of the weeds, and so much robbery to the growing crops. The weeds should be no more than allowed to sprout, and then should be destroyed by cultivation so as to prevent the formation of roots. Still another object in the cultivation of crops is to supply plant food from the surrounding atmosphere, by open pores in the soil to favor the action of the elements in depositing the plant food which they contain, in the soil.

From all the foregoing facts it is clearly seen that frequent cultivation is required, for if the soil should become hard in the least degree just so much loss will result to the growth of the roots of the plant and necessarily so much less to the yield of the crops. And again if the cultivation is not sufficiently frequent to destroy the sprouting weed seed, and they be allowed to form roots, just to the extent that these roots take up plant food just to that extent will the yield of the crop be diminished.

But the benefit of frequently stirring the soil is seen in the fact that as often as the soil is stirred and opened up the most favorable conditions are supplied for the deposit of plant food by the action of the elements. Every failure to cultivate at the right time will inevitably result in a diminished yield of crops. One cultivation every three days, or twice each week, is most likely the best rule to adopt. This will give sufficient time for the weeds to sprout and the soil will not harden in that length of time.

One man and team with a double cultivator can cultivate at least 15 acres of corn in this way, and if the ground has been plowed 12 to 16 inches deep, and furrows made narrow so as to make the soil fine, and if the crop has been properly planted, and then cultivated properly twice each week, the yield of crops on 15 acres will be as much as from 30

acres cultivated, plowed and planted in the ordinary manner. The same time employed and the same amount of labor being given to 15 acres as is usual to give to 30 acres, producing the same yield of crops as from 30 acres, makes a clear saving of the balance of 15 acres of land.

The cultivation for corn should be continued until the grains of the ear begin to harden. Just so long as the stalk is green, or just so long as any part of the stalk or ear is growing, just so long as the roots taking up plant food, and therefore require the same conditions of soil as at any stage of growth. Stop the cultivation before the stalk and ear are both perfectly developed, and the soil becomes hard, the roots fail to appropriate plant food, and the yield as well as the quality of the crop will be diminished. The cultivation, then, should be kept up until the ear and grains are perfectly grown, when the grain will begin to harden.

The cultivator, or kind, should be suited to the conditions of the growing crop. The first cultivation given to corn should be before it comes through the ground. This should be done with a smoothing harrow, passed over the ground as often as necessary to make the surface perfectly fine, smooth, even and mellow, and to destroy the weeds that may have sprouted ready to grow. Then as soon as the corn is fairly through the ground the rows can be seen and the cultivation should be immediately resumed. At this stage of growth small shovels should be used on the cultivator, and set so as not to throw much soil to the stalks, and as soon as the stalks attain a height of one foot, larger shovels may be used, and set so as to throw the soil to the hills, in order to hill up around the stalks as a support to them, and for the purpose of covering over weed seed to prevent their growth.

After the stalks attain a height of three or four feet then small shovels should be used that will not go to a greater depth than about three inches, to prevent cutting the roots of the crop, and to keep the soil mellow to that depth, which will act as a mulch, keeping the soil loose and moist. When the stalks attain a height too great to use a double cultivator, then a single cultivator, supplied with square teeth about four inches in length underneath the wooden portion of the cultivator, so as to run about three inches deep in the soil, should be substituted. This implement should be used until the cultivation is completed.

The cultivation of potatoes should begin as soon as the sprouts are fairly through the ground, when the rows can be seen. Throw the soil to the row so as to cover the sprouts, and then pass the smoothing harrow over the ground until smooth and level. This will effectually destroy all seeds of weeds. The cultivation after this should be the same as for corn as to kind and frequency, and to be continued until the vines fall down and cover the ground between the rows. At each cultivation they should be hilled up slightly. Care should always be observed not to disturb the vines, as the stems that support the tuber, or potato, commences to form before the vines attain one half their growth, and for that reason they should be hilled up gradually at each cultivation, and not all at once, and that the last cultivation.—*E. S. Teagarden, in Western Plowman.*

PARISIAN FANCIES.

A Beggar Maid's Costume Valued at Seven Hundred Francs.

A new porte bonheur has made its appearance in Paris. It consists of a little crystal locket, in which is encased a four-leaf shamrock, which, as you know, brings good luck to all who wear it. This porte bonheur comes from Austrá, where four-leaf shamrocks abound, it seems. What a pity we did not know this before! How lucky we might have been at a little expense! However, as "it is never too late to mend" our fortune, this new porte bonheur will no doubt be eagerly sought after.

Without being decidedly a novelty, I must not forget to mention Worth's new walking costume, which, on account of its simplicity, he calls the "Beggars Maid's" dress. It has a full skirt of white and blue flannel serge, striped lengthwise, and a scarf tunic, with the ends turned up at the back, of blue silk twill serge. The bodice, of the same silk serge, is open like a gentleman's evening coat in front, displaying an under jersey bodice of the striped serge. No collar or ruffs of any description. This little "Beggars Maid's" costume costs only seven hundred francs—mere nothing, as you see.

The barbaric style of jewelry is considered the most beautiful just now, so silver mountings are replacing gold. Really the models should be in bronze, as the models copied belong chiefly to the bronze age, but no woman would fancy this ultra faithful reproduction.

Gold ornaments of fine fil gree work are fashionable, especially as necklaces. As bracelets they are found too delicate, as the fine gold wire is soon pulled out of place and the beauty of the design is injured.

The new fans of crepe, powdered with shining spangles, having all the colors of the rainbow, are very effective in the evening. It looks as if the powder of crushed jewels had been sifted over them. A fan of black gauze is apparently spangled with diamond dust; in the center is the monogram of the owner in imitation diamonds. The effect is superb. It is the latest note of elegance, and all mondaines are having their monograms and coronets thus worked in their gauze fans.

A revived and very becoming fashion is a large butterfly low beneath the chin, in white or bright colored tulle; coral, salmon-pink, and yellow of every known and unknown shade. So that you see these fluffy bows of tulle at the neck of all sorts of wraps and even added above the now again popular fishu. Colored tulle just now is the rage with our elegantes, being especially becoming for all complexions.—*Godey's Lady's Book.*

—Two Brooklyn women had husbands who regularly beat them, and the other night at about the same hour they turned upon the rascals and beat them so seriously that they had to be taken to the hospital. One used a stone and the other a pitcher.—*Brooklyn Union.*

SWINE IN SUMMER.

A System of Feeding Which Will Assuredly Give Fair Results.

One of our subscribers asks what plan of feeding in the summer has been found best for swine to keep them gaining so they can be fattened rapidly when colder weather comes. Many farmers seem to consider the summer season as a time when they can easily carry the swine along on little food. Some of them have an idea that the pig should be tided over the summer on a little pasture, and prepared to be fattened after the cold fall weather sets in. Grass promotes the health of pigs, and a proper amount of it is highly beneficial; but profitable feeding requires that pigs should make their most rapid gain in warm weather. A hundred pounds can be put on pigs in summer as cheaply fifty or sixty-five pounds in cold weather. We believe this statement will be indorsed by all feeders who have tested the warm and the cold seasons for feeding under ordinary circumstances. We admit that the swine houses may be built so as to maintain a mild temperature in winter, and then there would not be so great a difference as we have noted. But those who provide for a summer temperature in winter are thorough believers in full feeding at all seasons of the year, and need no admonition as to the economy of full feeding in summer.

What is the appropriate grain food for pigs in summer? The answer to this question must depend upon the age and condition of the pigs. Pigs from two to six months old must have such food as will produce growth of muscle and bone, not fat. Indian corn for such pigs is, therefore, to be avoided, except in very small quantity. Corn is the most fattening food, the food to fill up the large, lank, muscular frame, to lay on clear, solid pork. But the young pig has all this frame-work to grow, and should have food best adapted to that end. A cover pasture is a good beginning, and this should be supplemented with nitrogenous and phosphatic food, such as oats, peas, wheat, middlings, linseed meal or cotton-seed

one hundred pounds of linseed meal, two hundred pounds of wheat middlings and one hundred pounds of corn meal, mixed together. This would give a mixture of qualities leaving nothing to be desired. The writer has used this combination with very great satisfaction. He has had lots of fifty-pound pigs gain nine pounds each per week, steadily, for ten weeks in succession. At the same time another lot equally thrifty, on pasture alone, gained three pounds each per week. The extra feed cost twelve cents per week for each pig, while the extra gain was six pounds per week, or two cents per pound. This same extra feed given in cold weather would not have produced half the gain. This combination of food will keep the pigs in prime health in the hot season, having no tendency to produce a feverish state of the system. Peas, oats or corn, ground together in equal proportions, also make an excellent combination for summer pig food. We doubt if hog cholera would ever appear in pigs thus reared. This disease is of very rare occurrence in the Eastern States, and the cases there found are mostly propagated by contact with Western hogs. Western feeders would do well to provide a greater variety of food for their pigs. Peas and oats grow as naturally and as profitably in the West as corn. Use them all in the growth of pigs, and disease will be much less troublesome.—*National Live Stock Journal.*

THE PIETA MYSTERY.

Ravages of a Peculiar Epidemic Which Swept Through California Years Ago.

About thirty years ago a gold-seeker grew weary of tramping the Russian river valley and resolved to abandon the shovel and pan and start a ranch. He summoned his wife and four sons from San Francisco and went to Pieta valley to settle down. He announced to the early settlers of this place that he would build his two log cabins and then return for supplies and live stock. A month passed and he came not. Another month and he had not appeared. Finally curiosity was aroused and a party was organized to explore the mystery. They found their way with difficulty to the valley. At its head they found two log huts half built, and within the walls of one lay five skeletons, picked clean by buzzard and coyote and whitened by the fierce sun of July. In a cleft stick placed conspicuously within the inclosure was a scrap of paper, upon which was scrawled this legend:

JIM ANGUISH & FAMILY,
Small Pocks.

Terror-stricken with fear of contagion, the exploring party fled, but some weeks later summoned courage to return, for the rough frontiersmen believed in the burial of the friendless dead. Here a curious fact was disclosed—no trace of the tools employed by the Anguish family in the recent architectural labors could be found, nor a footprint of the horses that were known to possess, nor a shred of their clothing or blankets. Another curious fact was the skull of Mr. Anguish himself exhibited two apertures not usually provided by nature, one on the frontal bone near the temple, the other in the occiput—both looking remarkably like those of a bullet. Also a rib, presumed

bly once, the private property of Mr. Anguish's elder son, bore a semi-circular scar which seemed to indicate violent contact with another bullet. Also there was a notable absence of all weapons, ammunition and provisions—merely the four low walls of each cabin, completed cabin, a few logs half burnt, the bleaching bones and the tell-tale letter in the cleft stick. So the bones were gathered, and roughly, yet not unreverently, placed in a shallow grave between the unfinished cabins. At the head of the sand heap that covered them a rude cross was erected, and the explorers rode grimly and in deep thought from the valley.

Two months before these occurrences a traveler from one of the few ranches scattered where Cloverdale now stands had noticed a hut by the road, tenanted by four drunken Mexicans and a vicious white who had been driven from the settlement. They had not hailed him, but something impelled him to reach his revolvers and put spurs to his mounting. Two days after the burial in the valley he returned by the same road. It was nearly dusk. As he entered the grove near the hut, which he remembered with fear, his horse shied violently. At the same time the traveler noticed that where before stood the hut there was now but a heap of ashes, with embers smoldering. He raised his eyes. From an arm of the grim old oak stretched across the road hung five curious, misshapen objects, swaying and twisting slowly in the freshening wind that rushed from the mountains. Beyond was a cleft stick holding a fragment of paper. It bore this concise statement and moral:

SMALL POCKS.
BILL BULLITT AND FORE GREENE
NB. ALL FLE-ET ARE GRASS.

The mystery of the valley was never explained and the phenomena of the grove were beyond inquiry or investigation, but it was certain that the singularly violent and predatory epidemic which ravaged Pieta had spread its contagion elsewhere, although no other instance than that above cited was afterward recorded.—*Cor. N. Y. Times.*

A MAGNIFICENT DOG.

The Finest St. Bernard Ever Brought to the United States.

A dog believed to be the most magnificent specimen of the rough St. Bernard species ever brought to this country has lately been received by D.J. Foster. He answers to the name of Barre and is said to be a direct descendant of the famous St. Bernard dog Barre, whose stuffed skin is one of the attractions in the Bernese museum and whose memory is cherished in Swiss song and legend as second only to that of William Tell. The present Barre was the mail dog of the St. Bernard monastery. Foster affirms earnestly that Barre knows more than most men do, and speaks most with awe of the progress he is making in learning the English language. When he arrived here a few weeks ago he did not know a word of English, but his comprehensive intelligence enabled him to understand pantomime. Now he takes in the salient points of an easy dialogue, with only now and then an expression of doubt upon his mobile countenance, and it is confidently expected will very soon be as much at home in English as he is ready in French and German.

He is five years old and his regular weight in condition is one hundred and seventy-two pounds. His length, from tip to tip, is fully six feet, and his height at the shoulders is thirty inches. He has two coats, one of thickly matted, long, oily fur underneath that is almost impervious to water; another outside of wavy hair three inches long. The under coat is of a rich brown hue; that on top an old-fashioned brindle, showing almost black in places, with bronze reflections in the light.

A deep, tremendous chest, clubbed body, straight back, very large neck, powerful loins, straight forearms, very strong hindquarters, and a tail that is more justly to be viewed as a splendid banner than a mere tail, are points that an expert will admire in Barre, and that turn his majestic head around to take stock of his examiner, and then the expert, or anybody else, will find that head to noble and worthy of admiration that will fascinate all attention. The dog's kingly consciousness of power blends strangely with a womanly tenderness in the expression of his great, reflective eyes.—*N. Y. World.*

NEVADA SALT MINES.

A State Rich in Salt, Borax and Other Valuable Minerals.

If the salt formations of Nevada were in railroad communication, there would be no market in this country for the foreign article. In Lincoln County, on the Rio Virgin, there is a deposit of pure rock salt which is exposed for a length of two miles, a width of half a mile, and is of unknown depth. In places, canyons are cut through it to a depth of sixty feet. It is of ancient formation, being covered in some places by basaltic rock and volcanic tuff. The deposit has been traced on the surface a distance of nine miles. It is so solid that it must be blasted like rock, and as pure and transparent that print can be read through blocks of it a foot thick. At Sand Springs, Churchill County, here is a deposit of rock salt fourteen feet in depth, free from any particle of foreign substance, which can be quarried at the rate of five tons a day to the ton. The great Humboldt salt field is about fifteen miles long by six wide.

When the summer heats have evaporated the surface water, salt to the depth of several inches may be scraped up, and underneath is a stratum of pure rock salt of unknown depth. Soda, borax and other valuable minerals also exist in large quantities near these localities, and branch railroads will sooner or later bring them into market. A considerable business in gathering borax is already established on the line of the Carson & Colorado railroad. If Nevada will cut down her working resources and develop her natural resources, she will be above the necessity of seeking land grants from her neighbor or from the general Government.—*San Francisco Bulletin.*