Make music aweet and clear; And by the river's reeded edge The blackbird's call you hear, Where purple clover blooms are sweet

Above his mate's safe hid retreat Loud sings the bobolink. And in the pasture on the hill.

Where blackberries are free, The children all their buskets fill, And shout in merry giee. The meck-eyed cattle silent stand,

And watch the happy throng, Whose laughter, in the summer land, Is sweeter than a song. Like gleams of gold the star-flowers shine

Among the grasses tall, That cluster by the clambering vine That clothes the tumbling wall. And here the brown song sparrow wakes

Its low, metodious note, That on the brooding silence breaks, Like horns that sound remote. Now voices rise where bending grain Is harvest splendor waits. And then a narrow stretch of plain

Is silent as the Fates. And so the winding roadway weaves Its charm, till at the last The hanging, moss grown farm house eaves Their shadows o'er it cast. Thomas S. Collier, in Youth's Companion

THE STOLEN PASSPORTS.

An Incident of Military Life on the Russian Frontier. I was just sitting down for a quiet

wening by the stove, when an orderly threw the door open and rushed into the "Captain Sasha, a dispatch!" he cried,

handing me one of those little official blue envelopes which I knew so well. I tore it open and read the contents:

"To Captain Sasha, Commander of Frontier Station on the Vistufa: Detain Ivan Brosky and Valdimir Program. They will reach you GENERAL JOHKA. "A bad night for travelers to be on

the road," I could not help thinking, for the rain was falling in torrents. I was commander of the Russian frontier station at Dama, which lies on the great highroad between Russia and the Austrian city of Cracow, and only a half mile distant was the river Vistula, which divides the dominions of the Emperor Francis Joseph from the dominions

of the Czar. It was my duty to examine the passports of all travelers coming either way, and to scrutinize their luggage, to see that no Russian products were smuggled into Austria, or vice versa.

For the last few days there had been little to do. Warm weather--unusual at this time of the year-had set in, and the roads were in bad condition for traveling.

The dispatch I had just received had been brought on horseback from the nearest telegraph station, nearly five miles distant, and from the signature at the bottom I knew it must be a matter of some importance, for General Jorka was the Minister of Police, and his very name was a terror to evil doers. burg with forged passports. It was dis-I instructed my men to watch the covered only yesterday." roads with extra care.

The evening wore on slowly, and at midnight no one had arrived. I came to the conclusion that the expected travelers had either been apprehended before they reached the frontier or had postponed their journey on account of mounting in haste, we dashed away at bad weather, so I determined to go to bed and enjoy a good night's rest.

The wind and rain kept me awake a long while, and just as I was about dropping off into slumber the sound of sleigh bells woke me up again, and in a moment or two a sharp tap at the door summoned me down-stairs. I dressed and went down.

Two travelers were waiting to see me; two big, powerful fellows, wrapped up in furs and great coats, which they kept closely buttoned, for the fire had gone out. I judged at once that these were the men I wanted, for, though their furs and clothes gave evidence of wealth and refinement, their faces hardly seemed to accord. But a surprise was in store for me

When they handed over their passports I found, to my consternation, that they bore the names of Alexis Zamose and Sergius Melikoff, and were properly stamped and signed. To hide my confusion I made some in-

quiries, and they very frankly informed me that they were merchants of St. Petersburg who were going to Cracow on business. "Had they met any person on the

road?" I inquired. "Yes," said the smooth-faced man "they had passed two men early in the evening, but their horses seemed to be lame and they were moving very slow-

I hesitated a moment and then ordered an examination to be made of their baggage, a proceeding to which they made no objection. Every thing in their valises, however, was all right. and their linen and toilet cases were

stamped with their initials. I felt that I had no authority to detain them, and yet I hated to see them go, for I had a presentiment that all was not right. To add to my suspicions the man with the beard was nervous and agitated, a fact which he did his utmost

I knew too well, however, what would be the result of a blunder committed through excess of authority, so I determined to be on the safe side, and after a delay, which I stretched out as far as possible, I told them they were free to

proceed. I escorted them to the door, where a low, one-seated sleigh awaited them, drawn by a pair of horses, which I saw at a glance had been hard driven.

At the last moment I had half up my mind to detain them, but with a basty salute they stepped into the sleigh and drove rapidly eastward, where dawn

was already dappling the sky. There was no use of going back to bed, so I went in and stirred up the fire, and sat down to smoke a cigar and wait

for daylight. Now that it was too late, I felt sorry had let the men go, for the more thought over it, the more certain I felt that there was something wrong about them. It had stopped raining and begun

to blow up cold, and I saw that it would probably be a busy day. I had already finished breakfast, when

a trampling of horses and a tinkling of

bells drew me to the door, and to my whose collections I and forgotton. surprise I saw bearing rapidly down upon It was possible, I thought, to overtake caps that came forward over their ears. tain. I was soon undeceived.

robbed, captain," said the Cossack offi- seen how hopeless their situation was. cer, saluting. "They will tell you their story, and, meantime, we await saw at a glance it was giving way, for

lowed with a sinking heart.

"We are victims of an infamous outour horse loose, they drove him off in reared with fright. the darkness and took flight. On foot village, and were so fortunate as to fall | fire on them!" in with these brave soldiers, who prothus far on our journey."

With inward rage I listened to this strange tale, realizing only too clearly the mistake I had made, and my feelhanded me two folded papers, saying: "There, sir, are the passports the villains were so considerate to give us in exchange for our own."

I tore them open. They were made out to Ivan Brosky and Vladimir Pro-

"The rascals have escaped!" I cried angrily. "They passed through not jaded horses, two hours ago, and I dared not detain. An instan them.

"And it is too late to overtake them?" cried Alexis Zamose.

"Too late. They have crossed the Vistula an hour ago." "The Government shall atone for

this," the two men cried out together. They would see if travelars were to be robbed with impunity on the Czar's high read.

I was vainly endeavoring to pacify them, when a soldier entered the room. "Captain," he said, "the Vistula has risen. The bridge was carried away at "Those two travelers?" I demanded

eagerly. "Did they get across in time?" "No, Captain. They started for the upper bridge." "Then we'll have them yet!" I cried.

"Call out the guards at once. Don't lose a second. I buckled on my sword, seized my cloak and hat and rushed to the door where my horse already awaited me.

My own men were mounting in haste, and the Cossacks sat motionless in their saddles. A moment more would have seen us off, when a solitary rider came in sight,

far up the road, and presently reined up before us panting and breathless. "Orders from the Czar," he cried, vaulting from the saddle. "Have Ivan Brosky and Vladimir passed this sta-

tion? I briefly explained the situation. "They must be arrested at all hazards!" he cried. "They left St. Peters-

"And who are these men?" I asked. "They are Shamerin and Kharkoff," replied the messenger, "the assassins of

General Orley." It was of grave importance, indeed, that they should be captured, and, full speed, leaving the Czar's messenger to enjoy the comforts of the station for he had been riding all night and

badly needed rest. Our course led eastward to the Vistula and thence turned off to the south, folowing a rugged and little traveled road through the hills, which led eventually to another bridge over the Vistula, some twenty miles further down the stream. It was bad enough for horsemen; for a

sleigh it was terrible. I rode in advance, side by side with Captain Karaman, the commander of the

Cossacks. We thundered at a headlong speed over the frozen ground, sure of our prey-for, on the road before us, fast freezing up in the morning air, were the tracks of boofs and runners imprinted in the slush. At intervals, headed eagle, with the figures "32" on of the Vistula, a turbid, yellow mass, swirling past with its burden of floating

We must travel still faster. The upper bridge was a heavier, more solid structure, little likely to be carried off by even such a flood as this. We must overtake them before they reach it.

We drove the spars into our panting horses, and the forest and barren hillsides shot past us in one flying panorama as we galloped like the wind over the frozen ground, rounding bend after bend, only to see the same empty glittering stretch of road fading in mockery into the frosty atmosphere.

Furlong after furlong, mile after mile, and still they kept ahead with a

speed that seemed incredible. "Look!" cried Captain Karaman. under his frosted beard, "the tracks are still soft. We shall soon see them. Straggling houses came in sight, and the people ran to their doors in wonder as we swept past like the whirlwind-Karaman's Cossacks of the Volga, somber and stern in their great black cloaks

and shakos; my dragoons, a triffe more picturesques with their green uniforms and waving plumes. We galloped through the little vil-

lage of Kapan-only five miles to the bridge-and, as we swept round the brow of a hill, in the distance we saw a black speck on the frozen road.

Even as Karaman pointed it out it vanished over a bridge. We thundered on in hot pursuit, losing sight of it sometimes, but all the while gaining steadily, until from a vague, dark object, it assumed shape and form, and we could very plainly make out a sleigh and two horses.

With fierce joy I saw it drawing closer and closer. They were lashing the horses with furious desperation, but the poor brutes were fast giving out Barely a quarter of a mile lay between us, and now the distance was diminishing very rapidly. We were going down a gentle slope, when sud-

denly Captain Karaman exclaimed: "The bridge! Do you see the bridge?" Crossing the road far ahead of us was a gleaming bit of water, spanned by a narrow wooden bridge. It was not the Vistula, but a puny mountain stream-one of the tributaries of the Vistula,

the station a small detachment of mounted Cossacks, surrounding a sleigh with and even if we failed it mattered little, two men in it, who I made sure were the for the Vistula was still a mile or more parties I was looking for, an opinion away. We swept over the icy ground at which seemed to be verified when they a dangerous speed, and I felt like drew up, for the men were rather rough- shouting out with triumph, for the looking fellows, and wore heavy cloaks sleigh was running slower, and slower, of coarse material, and great astrachan and the capture of the men seemed cer-

I called them to surrender, but they "These travelers claim to have been made no reply, though they must have The bridge was now very close, and I the stream was high and swollen, and The travelers hurried inside, and I fol- great cakes of ice were crashing against

the wooden piles. "Look out, they are going to fire." rage, sir," said one of them. "My cries Karaman, suddenly. And as he name is Alexis Zamose, and this is my spoke the smooth-faced man half rose in friend. Sergius Meilkoff. We were his seat and turning round pointed the journeying to Cracow, and while pass- gun directly at us. I heard the report ing through the forest last evening two and felt the whiz of the bullet past my armed strangers in a sleigh over ear. Then came a puff of white smoke took us, and overpowering us and a second shot; and with a cry of they took all our possessions, made us pain the Cossack behind me sprang up give up our furs in exchange for these from his saddle and rolled down on the wretched garments, and then cutting jey road, while his riderless horse

"The scoundrelst" hissed Karaman we made our way back to the nearest through his teeth. "If we only dared

But this was exactly what we dared cured us a horse and accompanied us not do. They must be taken alive at all bazards. In the excitement I had forgotten all about the bridge, and closing up we dashed on in rapid pursuit. The assassins had nearly reached the ings may be imagined when the man edge of the stream now. The bearded man was plying the whip savagely, and his companion was standing, gun in hand, holding his fire apparently until

> Faster and faster-and now the stream was before us, a raging, roaring torrent, flashing by with a terrible velocity, and still the fugitives madly lashed their

we should come a little nearer.

An instant more and the panis stricken brutes dashed upon the swaving, trembling structure; and then, with a mighty crash and blinding cloud of spray and snow, bridge, sleigh and #11 crumbled into the torrent, and with a terrible effort we checked our trembling horses on the very brink.

For a moment I could see nothing, and then Karaman pointed out the two assassins huddled together on a great cake of ice that was whirling rapidly down the stream. The horses and sleigh were nowhere to be seen.

A peasant was speedily found who led us through the forest to the shores of the Vistula, at a point close to the mouth of the tributary stream.

On the other side rose the Austrian military station, but no trace of the assassins could be discovered; and from the swollen condition of the river I believed it impossible that they could have been saved. Captain Karaman was of the same opinion, so we gave up the search and rode back to the station. The Cossack who had been shot was not fatally injured, and gave promise of recovering in a few weeks

I made out my report and forwarded it to headquarters, and a fortnight later I was exonerated from all blame, much to my relief, for very unjust and arbitrary decisions are sometimes made in

What their fate was I never certainly knew. Long afterward, an Austrian, traveling to St. Petersburg, informed me that Shamerin and Kahrkoff had been seen in Vienna, and were supposed to be editing a revolutionist journal, but I have grave doubts of the Austrian's veracity, and in my opinion, the o assassins perished in the icy waters of the Vistula. - Atlanta Constitution.

Of Interest to Masons. The order of Freemasonry is said to have been established by Solomon at the time of building his temple. The order has been derived from many sources, but not till about 1717 did the second stage of its history begin in London, which is, in fact, the home of Masonry as now taught. The first ized in 1729 and was then under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England. The emblem of the order in most common use is the square and the compass worn by members of the Blue Lodge. Besides this there are several designs worn by more advanced members, among them a keystone for the Chapter degree and a Maltese cross for the Commandery. There are also bundreds of men entitled to wear the Consistory, or thirty-second degree badge The general design of this emblem is a cross on which rests a crowned doublethrough the hill gaps we caught sight a smooth triangle on the breast -St Louis Republic.

How Time Increases Values. Eminent Author-You bought a MS from me some ten years ago for twentyfive dollars.

Publisher--Yes, sir; but we haven't printed it yet. Eminent Author-Well, let me have it back, and I'll give you a hundred. I've got a reputation now, and don's

want to spoil it!-Pusk. Death and Burial in China When the Chinese wish to declare the extreme vexatiousness of any piece of work they say: "It is more trouble than a funeral;" the obsequies of a parent being reckoned the most maddening

affair in human experience. Infants are buried summarily, without coffins, and the young are interred with few rites; but the funeral of the aged, of both sexes, are elaborate in proportion to the number of the descendants and to their wealth. When a childless married man dies, his widow may perform all the duties of a son toward him, may remain in his house and may adopt children to rear as his heirs and worshipers of the family manes. If his widow proposed marrying again, a young male relative may, with the consent of senior members of the clan, undertake the services ex-

pected from a son and inherit the estate of the deceased. When one is about to die he is removed from his couch to a bench or to a mat on the floor because of a belief that he who dies in a bed will carry the bedstead as a burden into the next world. He is washed in a new pot in warm water in which a bundle of incense sticks merged. After the washing the pot and the water are thrown away gether. He is then arrayed in a full suit of new clothing that he may appear in hades at his best. He breathes his last in the main room, before the largest door of the house, that the departing soul may easily find its way out into the air. A sheet of spirit money, brown paper having a patch of gilding on one surface, is laid over the upturned face, because it is soid that if the eyes are left uncovered the roof, and that in such case the family could never build a more spacious domicile.-Adele M. Field in Popular

Science Monthir.

UTILITY OF TOADSTOOLS.

Africans Worship Them and Asiatics Get

Drunk on Them. The Ostiaks, the Kamtchadales and other inhabitants of Asiatic Russia find in one of the gild bearing family-the manita muscarius-the exhaliration and madness that more civilized nations demand and receive of alcohol, and enjoy a narcotism from its extracts as seductive as that of opium.

The Fiji Islanders are indebted to toadstools strung on a string for girdles, which alone prevent them from being classed among "the poor and naked, and their sole aesthetic occupation lies in The Fiji fishermen, especially, value them highly because they are waterproof!

Cerdier tells us that the negroes of the west of Africa exalt a certain kind of soletus to the sacredness of a god and bow down in worship before it. this reason Afzeltus has named this variety boletus sacer.

A French chemist has extracted wax from the milk giving kind, but has not stated the price of candles made from it. Others of the delving fraternity have shown that toadstools may be used in the manufacture of Prussian blue instead of blood, for like certain animal matter, they furnish prussic acid. As fungi, after the manner of all animal life, breathe oxygen and throw off carbonic acid gas, their flesh partakes of animal rather than vegetable nature.

In their decomposition they are capital fertilizers of surrounding plants, and in seasons when they are plentiful it will repay the agriculturist to make use of them as manure.

According to Linnaus, the Laps delighted in the perfume of some species and carried them upon their persons so that they might be the more attractive. Linnaus exclaims: "O, Venus! thou that scarcely sufficest thyself in other counries with jewels, diamonds, precious stones, gold, purple, music and spectacle, are here satisfied vith a simple toadstool!"

A variety of boletus-a tube bearing species-is powdered and used as a proector of clothing against insects. agaricus muscarius constitutes a well known poison to the common housefly. It intoxicates them to such a degree that they can be swept up and destroyed.

Certain polyporei-those large, dry, orky growths found upon logs and when properly seasoned, sliced and beaten, engage large manufactories the scene, and the quacks fill up the inin producing from them the punk of commerce, used by the surgeon for the deadly specifics. No great progress was arrest of hemorrhage, the artist for his made, however, until Bismarck became shading stump, and the 4th of July urchin for his pyrotechnic purposes.

A species of polyporus is used in Italy as scrubbing brushes. In countries where fire producing is unknown or laborious and the luxury of lucifers denied, the dried fungus enables the transportation of fire from one place to another over The inhabitants of great distances. Franconia use them in hammered slices instead of chamois skin for underclothing.

Another polyporus takes its' place among manufactures as the highly necessary razor strop. Northern nations make bottle stoppers of them, as their corky nature suggests. The polyporus of the birch tree (polyporus betulinus) increases the delight of smokers by its delicate flavor when mixed with tobacco.-Lippincott's Magazine.

Coolest Town in the World.

In the Berlin Meteorologische Zeitschrift for June, Dr. Hamm gives an interesting account of Werchojansk (Siberia), deduced from several years' observations. The town, which lies in the valley of the Jana, about nine feet above the level of the river, in latitude 67 degs. 34 min. N., longitude 133 degs. 51 min. E., and at a height of about 350 feet above the sea, has the greatest winter cold that is known to exist upon the globe. Monthly means of -58 degs. F. occur even in December, a mean temperature which has been observed nowhere else in the polar regions; and minima of -76 dega are usual for the three winter months (December-Februlodge in the United States was organ- ary). In the year 1886 March also had a minimum -77 degs., and during that year December and January never had a minimum above -76 degs., while in January, 1886, the temperature of -85 degs. was recorded. These extreme readings are hardly credible, yet the thermometers have been verified at the St. Petersburg observatory. To add to the misery of the inhabitants, at some seasons the houses are inundated by the overflow of the river. The yearly range of cloud is characteristic of the climate; in the winter season the mean only amounts to about three-tenths in each month .-

The Petroleum Producing Strata. Oil producing strata do not always belong to the same geological period. In Kentucky and Tennessee the petroleum is furnished by the lower silurian; that is, by the most ancient stratified rocks. In Upper Canada it is found in the lower Devonian, and in Pennsylvania in the upper Devonian. The springs of western Virginia flow from the upper carboniferous strata. In Connecticut and North Carolina coal oil is found in the trias, in Colorado and Utah in the lignites of the cretaceous formation, while the oil producing regions of California belong to the tertiary period. It is a remarkable fact that most of the deposits of the ancient world exist in comparatively recent tertiary formations, as for instance those of the oil impregnated sands of Alsace, of the south of France, and of Abruzzia and Emilia in Italy. Ther are numerous deposits in Galicia and the Danubian provinces similarly placed. while the strata that contain those of the Crimea, the Caucasus and the island of Taman are of nearly the same geological epoch. It is a fact to be noted that the oils coming from the greatest depth are of the best quality, those produced from nearer the surface of the earth seeming to have lost some of their vola-

tile elements. - San Francisco Chronicle. Elastic Concrete for Pavemen's. An ingenious employe of a New Jersey concrete firm has invented a paving composition which has some very markable features. He claims that his preparation, the composition of which he keeps secret, is just as durable as stone, but is soft and clastic to the trend. so that it is not only pleasant to walk upon but actually gives the foot an impulse like that-in a lesser degree, of course-gained from a springboard Whether his invention be a possibility or not, something of the kind would cer tainly be acceptable to tired townfolk whose feet ache and blister as they stamp along on the hard and noisy pavement.

Chicago News. The Short Distance Traveler. Attention is called to the fact that while inventive genius has done so much the corpse may count the rows of tiles in | for the comfort of long distance riders in railway cars, it has done little or nothing for the comfort of short distance riders who are much more numerous. short distance traveler raise his voice in protest. - New York Tribune.

TOO MUCH FLESH.

A Question Which Troubles the Fat World. History of the Gradual Improvement in What Doctors Say.

Probably no question of personal hygiene has occupied so much attention from laymen or laywomen as the question how to avoid growing fat. Doctors, we think, as a rule take little interest in it as long as it does not result in some form of illness. About the inconvenience of being fat, there is generally little use in consulting them. Until within about twenty five years the fat people, if we may use the expression, lie down under their fat. The opinion that fat ness was irremediable was in fact widely ornamenting their limited wardrobe. diffused. Mrs. Fanny Kemble used to say, in her grand manner, that "when there was a constitutional tendency to fat, no diet, nor exercise, nor sorrow would avail."

Since she took this view, however, a great change has come over what we may call the fat world. Fat people refuse any longer to accept their fatness as hopeless. They deny that any portion of the human family has been set apart by Nature as the prey of obesity. This great awakening was due in a large degree to the celebrated Banting, an immensely fat man, who, by greatly reducing his weight by confining himself to nitrogenous food, filled all fat people with the anticipation of a better day. Tens of thousands followed his example. and cut down their size immensely. fortunately he died very soon after he became lean, and a panic spread through his followers. Distrust about the effect of his system on the general health began to gain ground. Many people suffered severely in strength and spirits by following his regimen too strictly, and it fell into more or less discredit. It would now be as hard to find an original out- as an ornament upon the person. and-out disciple of Banting as of Priessnitz, the hydropathist, or of Hahnemann, the homoeopathist. But many still follow him in a slight degree, by eschewing butter, eating but little bread and potatoes and sticking steadily to lean meat.

If his teachings and example had had no effect at all, however, it would have proved that the fat people were less enterprising and energetic than other civilized men in our day ever are. They refused to consider Banting's failure as final. They declined to accept the doctor's advice to "let well enough alone." They continued their demand that obesity should be treated as a disease, and a cure found for it. Accordingly every few years a new fat docfor appears on tervals with the sale of more or less dissatisfied with his fat, and called for a physician who could relieve him of it. This physician appeared in the person of a certain Dr. Schweniger, who cut down the chancellor's weight to such an extent that he had him nominated to a professorship in the faculty of medicine in the Berlin university, and insisted on his appointment in the teeth of the opposition of the other doctors, who had either never heard of Schweniger before, or heard what was bad. To the argument that he had won no distinction in the profession, the answer was that he had taken fifty or sixty pounds off the prince's huge frame. Schweniger accordingly rapidly became an authority on fatness, and the pamphlet containing his system is sold by tens of thousands.

The well known Dr. Yeo, of London, discusses this system in The Nineteenth Century. It ought to be said en passant that Schweniger's cure is claimed also by Professor Oertel, of Munich, who says he discovered it, but this avails him little, because he did not treat the chancellor, Schweniger maintains that the chief cause of fat among men, as among aniwhat, and drinking too much, even of water, at one's meals, but especially of wine, beer and spirits. The central principle of this system is, that unless you live by muscular toil you must cut down the quantity you eat, and must drink but little, if any, with your meals. Of course he has minor rules, and makes distinctions between different articles of food, but to him quantity is the great enemy of the obese. After him comes a certain Ebstein, who also has his sys in, which differs from both Banting's and Schweniger's, but all three agree that to be lean you must greatly reduce your consumption of the carbo hydrates or

starchy things.

Germany is the country where the most vigorous fight with fat is carried on, and where fat cures excite most interest, owing, it is said, to the great prevalence of obesity, a result in part of the consumption of beer, and in part, doubtless, of the frequency and heartiness of the meals. Accordingly the number of people who go to the various baths for simple corpulency is very large. Oertel makes provision for this class by prescribing carefully graded walks, in which the ascent will stimulate the

heart's action and strengthen it. All the masters agree that it is mainly through its effect on the heart that fat becomes dangerous. If you surround your heart thickly with fat you impede its working, and it gradually grows weaker, and then, some fine day, when you have put a little more fat on it and call on it for extra exertion, it stops short and down you go. Fat does not greatly trouble the young and active in any country. It is when, in middle life, ex-ercise begins to be distasteful, but the appetite remains as good as ever, that is comes on people like a strong man armed, and makes exertion, especially in hot weather, very formidable. But the fat people are aroused, and we feel sure their number, in proportion to population, wil hereafter be diminished.-New York Evening Post.

An Amusing Goose Story. "When I was in Alabama, between Porter's Gap and Millerville, said a gentleman living in Atlanta, "I came to a country place where a man was driving ten or twelve geese from a branch toward a cotton patch. 'For heaven's sake,' said I, 'what is it you have on the necks of those geese?' 'Those are gourds. full of water. I drive these geese into that cotton patch and keep them there all day weeding out the cotton. There is no water in the cotton patch, and I have to give them water in this way to keep But how do they get the them there. water out of those gourds under their 'They drink out of each other's gourds. Each gourd has an opening in the side so that another goose can put hi bill into the gourd and drink. If you will stay here long enough you will see it yourself.' I waited there half a day to see that performance, and finally saw it. The geese did just as the man When a goose got said they would. thirsty he walked up to his neighbor and coolly drank out of the gourd on his neck."-Atlanta Journal.

A family in Whatcom, Wash., not liking the taste of the water they were drawing from their ninety foot deep well, sent a man down to inspect its depth. The well was in tolerably good condition, but a dead Indian was hoisted out,

ANCIENT TIMEPIECES.

the Works of Modern Watches. The use of the watch has become so ommon and people are so accustomed to is the Simoom (sambuli, samun, shelook, take note of time by the pieces which etc.), the violent whiriwind, with or they carry in their pockets that they are apt to forget how recent an invention it The first watch was not twenty years old when America was discovered. The great mass of the buman race never saw a watch, and if men have lived (as some scientists claim) for 100,000 years, then how singular the fact that for 99,000 years of that time no one ever had a

Of course the watch grew out of the precedent use of the clock, and it was about 600 years between the first clock and the first watch. That is as closely as one can estimate dates when the preise year of either invention is unknown. and moving forward at the same The invention of the clock is generally

ascribed to the monk Gerbert, who was afterward raised to the tiara under the name of Pope Sylvester II. The first clocks were cumbrous things, calculated only to be hung to the wall and worked with cords and weights. For a long time they were only used in convents and monasteries, where they helped to make miserable the lives of the inmates. Others say that the invention of the

clock was due to the Saracens. Some time in the Fourteenth century the escapement was introduced in what is known as De Wyck's clock. This allowed of reduction in size, but it seems to have taken 150 years more for the idea to have gotten into men's minds that the clock might be made small enough to carry in the pocket or to hang

The city of Nuremburg claims to have made the first watch in 1477, and Peter Hell, of that city, made watches of steel as early as 1490. It is certain that the first watches were called Nuremburg eggs, a fact that identifies both the place of making and the shape of the watch. The works were inclosed in circular metal cases and were hung from the girdle. They generally suggested the idea

of the egg. The first English watches had weights and were used as a pocket clock. Such early watches had only one hand and required to be wound up twice a day. The lials were of silver and brass, the cases had no crystals, but opened at the back and front and were four or five inches in diameter-about the size of a common

dessert plate. The first great improvement of the watch-the substitution of springs for weights-was in 1650. These springs were not coiled, but were only straight pieces of steel. Soon afterward the fusee was invented, connected with a mainspring in a barrel. This was fastened to piece of catgut, which was wound around a spiral grooved fusee in the shape of a cone. The last coils were around the small end of the cone, thus presenting in the running of the watch the least leverage to the greatest force of the force of the spring. This made it pos- the garden were found to be withered in sible to attain considerable accuracy in a remarkable manner. It was as if a the running of the watch. A small linked current of fire about twelve yards in chain was substituted for the catgut, and this style of chain remained until com- in a straight line, singeing and destroyparatively recent times. The spiral hair ing every green thing in its course. ing the motion, was invented and at other, its path was as defined as the tached about the year 1658 by Dr. Hook. | course of a river." Lengthening or shortening the spring lessens or increases the vibrations and makes the regulation of the watch an

The cases of the early watches were made for personal adornment and were risen from the earth or descended from Ganymede. The works are contained in trate, one and all within the tent, the center and displays the dial plate focated, indeed, but safe,

death's head was given to Mary, Queen ing the passing of the gale.

"We remained thus for ten minutes, of Scots, by her husband, the dauphin of France. It was lately in the possession of Sir John Lauder, and came to red hot iron slowly passing over us, was his family through Catherine Seton, to alone to be felt. Then the tent walls his family through Catherine Seton, to whom the unfortunate Mary gave it before her execution.

There is a similar watch in a Boston museum that belonged to one of the Pilgrim fathers. It is of silver, in the form of a death's head, opening at the under jaw. It has at the top a small ring, by means of which it was attached to the girdle.-Jewelers' Review.

The forest land in Norway is in extent as compared with the arable land as thirty to one. Of course the exportation of timber is one of the chief resources of the country, but the woods are well preserved, a forester resides in every district, and no waste or destruction of such valuable possessions is allowed, as has un-fortunately taken place in America. The land that is cultivated, except in a few favored spots, seems poor, and the people themselves have, evidently, few of the luxuries of life. There are not many villages, Norway differing from Sweden in that respect; the farmhouses are scattered, and the dwellings of the peasants are usually small wooden huts, and often

But, though poverty is great, there is no beggary. We have never been im-portuned for alms, nor have fees been expected for trifling services, as in Italy or the rural districts of England. The people have a somewhat sad, or rather a subdued look, such as selitude often gives. The women, with bandkerchiefs pinned over their heads, look at us with grave eyes. The little white haired children never shout after the passing carriage, or play monkey tricks to earn a cent. are a gentle and quiet race, civil and pleasant spoken, but not jolly and talka-tive like the Germans. Their voices are of a peculiar melody-a musical rise and fall in the pronunciation of their words, which has been analyzed by the students of such peculiarities, and which it is impossible for a stranger to imitate. - Cor. San Francisco Chronicle.

A Popular Summer Fashion.

That suitable garment for a tropical climate—the light woolen shirt—is fast making itself popular in our tropical But the mandate summer weather. foshion still is that the woolen shirt is "not gentlemanly" in town or on the cars—the two places where it is most cars—the two places where it is most needed. A gentlemanly dress will never offend the sensibilities of others. A neat flannel shirt is certainly less offensive than the sweat soaked handkerchiefs mosphere, all of which would be a diffiwith which the wearers of laundered linen try to hide the wilted rag that was once a glossy and heat inclosing collar.

A car full of gentlemen with pocket-handkerchiefs used as bibs is a ridiculous commentary on slavery to a foolish fash-

THE DREADED SIMOOM.

Its Generation and the Terrible Incidents of Its Career.

The most remarkable of the hot winds without sand, which affects the deserts of Africa and southwestern Asia. The great heat of the soil passing into the atmosphere causes an appreciable expansion and lightening of the latter, resulting in the formation of small cyclonic disturbances. The surrounding atmosphere, in the never ceasing natural struggle to maintain an equilibrium, rushes in to fill the space vacated by the expanded air, and in its turn undergoes the same process, until at last there is a powerful current drawn into the vortex, frequently bringing with it quantities of loose and the cyclone then becomes visiblehuge columns of sand whirling round time. The air, already very dry the simoom originated, now becomes still more so from the presence of the dense cloud of dust. Away goes the storm across the desert; at first it is seen as a low haze on the borizon, but quickly spreading the cloud advances, sometimes slowly, sometimes rapidly, the tall pillars being visible a long way off darkening the atmosphere, and bringing with them great destruction. In the whirl the wind blows with the force of a hurricane, hills of sand are taken up, and are either scattered or are again gathered into new hills wherever the storm chooses to deposit them, so that the desert is dotted with frequently shifting sand ranges. Under these are buried whole caravans of traders, travelers and even armies. The simoom is supposed to have annihilated the armies Sennacherib and of Cambyses.

So terribly dry is the air in these storms that it is fatal to vegetation, while the density of the dust cloud makes it almost impossible for human beings to breathe. This gives rise to the idea that the wind contained a deadly poison; hence the Arabic simcom, signifying a poisonous wind; but it is no more poisonous than any other wind, its fatal qualities being simply the excessive dryness and the quantity of fine sand with which it is loaded. The temperature of the air has been known to rise to 133 degs., and its desiccating effect is seen in dried up mouths and nostrils, in skin cracking, intense thirst, painful and difficult breathing and inability to sleep. The time occupied in passing a given spot varies between a few minutes and twenty or twenty-four hours, the blast leaving behind it unmistakable evidence of the path it has traveled. The hot parching air of the simoom, almost as soon as the breath is out of the body and before decomposition has time to set in, causes the flesh to lose all its firmness and consistency, so that it drops or may be taken off the

bones easily.

A party of officers sleeping on the roof of Gen. Jacob's house at Jacobabad thus recount their experience of the simoom: "They were awakened by a sensation of suffocation and an exceedingly hot, op-pressive feeling in the air, while at the same time a powerful smell of sulphur spring. As the cone was unwound the pervaded the atmosphere. On the foleverage changed in proportion to the lowing morning a number of trees in breadth had passed through the garden spring, which is so necessary for equaliz- tering on one side and passing out on the

Palgrave was overtaken by one of some preliminary remarks on the advance of the simoom, he proceeds: "So dark was the atmosphere and so burni the heat that it seemed that hell had of all sorts and shapes. One that be above. But at the moment when the longed to Lady Fitzgerald tells in a curi- worst of the concentrated poison blast ous way the classic tale of Jupiter and was coming round we were already prosthe body of the eagle, which opens across our heads well wrapped up, almost sufrichly engraved with scrolls and flowers. camels lay without like dead, their long The silver gilt watch in the form of a necks stretched out on the sand, await-

during which a still heat, like that of a began again to flap in the returning gusts and announced that the worst of the simoom had gone by. My comrades appeared more like corpses than living men, and so, I suppose, did I. How-ever, I could not forbear, in spite of warnings, to step out and look at the camels; they were still lying flat, as though they had been dead, and the air was yet darkish, but before long it brightened up to its usual dezzling clearness. During the whole time the simoom lasted the atmosphere was entirely free from sand or dust, so that I hardly know how to account for its singular obscur-ity."—Cornhill Magazine.

The Grandest Instrument on Earth, Professor George Davidson, of the United States geographical survey, accompanied by several friends, visited the Lick Observatory on Mount Hamilton, Saturday evening, by invi-tation of Professor Holden. The night was a splendid one for observation, but owing to the fact that 117 persons were also on the mountain, it being tors' night, no length of time could be spent at the great telescope, as that is al-ways the great attraction for visitors. It was the first peep through the 36-inch re-fractor that Professor Davidson enjoyed since the completion of the observatory, and to say that he was pleased with the experience is only half putting it.
"Yes, sir," he said the other day,

when spoken to about the matter, "it the greatest and grandest instrument on earth. I am not at liberty to divulge just now what I saw and what has already been accomplished by the astron-omers on Mount Hamilton. That glory is for the astronomers themselves, when they do make public their discoveries, which I hope will be soon, it will astonish the astronomical world as much as any one else. Some of the discoveries they have made are, in fact, so novel and wonderful that Professor Holden and his assistants are really timid about announcing them to the world until the entirely satisfied that they really do exist and are not illusions of some sort. Im-portant discoveries have been made in all of the departments nebu stars, planets, etc.—and questio have been subjects of doubt and speculation for generations have been entired put at rest and accounted for. The telcult combination to get together."-San Francisco Bulletin.

The production of gold in California began in 1848, the yield that year being \$9,000,000; in the year following, \$40,000,000, and \$50,000,000 in 1850. The total gold product of that state to date is setimated at \$1,125,000,000.