

Poetry.

From Punch. The Russian Loochinvar.

The big-booted Czar had his eye on the East,
For truces and treaties he cares not the least,
And save his good pleasure he conscience hath none,
He talks like the Vandal, and acts like the Hun,
So faithless in peace, and so ruthless in war,
Have ye e'er heard of king like the big-booted Czar?

He stayed not for speech, but with sabre and gun,
He rushed into Turkey, though cause there was none;

But when he got near to the old Iron Gate,
He found certain reasons which urged him to wait;
For down by the Danube stood Omar Pacha,
Prepared to encounter the big-booted Czar.

So he drew up his legions—sail, vassal and thrall,
His footmen, and horsemen, and cannons, and all,
Then out spoke bold Omar, his hand on his sword,
In an attitude fitting an Ottoman Lord,
"O come ye in peace here, or come ye in war,
Or to see St. Sophia, you big-booted Czar?"

"I've long asked your homage, my suit you denied,
And my holy religion you've scorned and decried,
So now I've come down with this army of mine,
The rights and the wrongs of the case to define,
And you have not a chance, for the Muscovian star

Must pale when it looks on the flag of the Czar."
He flung down his challenge, the Turk took it up,
(Remarking on slaps 'twixt the lip and the cup)
And deigned to his logic the briefest reply,
"That the claim was unjust, and its proof was a lie."

And he brought up some thousands of swordsmen as a bar
To further advance by the big-booted Czar.
So before Othman's battle took place,
And the Russian thought proper to right about face;
For the guns of Stamboul had a menacing boom,
And a bombshell sent flying the Dammernberg
And the Cossacks all grumbled, "Twere better,
By far,

To eat tallow at home than dine out with the czar."
One hint would not do, nor one word in his ear,
The despot commands, and his men persevere—
So again to the breezes their standards are flung,
And Kalafat echoes the war-trumpet tongue,
And the Ottoman, charging, has scattered afar
The ill-fated troops of the big-booted Czar.

There was wild diarray in the rear and the van,
The Moslem they rode, and the Cossacks they ran,
There was racing and chasing—'twas pleasing to see
The Russ as well beat as a Russian can be.

ay this, and much worse, be the fortune of war
That awaits the old pirate, the big-booted Czar.

Miscellaneous.

Aim High.

Yes, aim high. In every department of labor and learning there is a summit of crowning excellence; a goal to be reached, a hill to ascend. Toil up; surmount difficulties; grapple with dangers; overcome obstacles; how much more delightful to stand on the top of the mountain, and bathe in the full, free, delicious upper air of heaven; behold all around the beautiful habitations of men, art and nature locked sweetly hand in hand; the smiling loveliness of outspread fields; the solemn valleys; the flashing rivulets, the circling hills, the dark, haunted forest, and beyond that, the great sea, in the calmness of its majesty, a heaven smiling into heaven, than to stand delving in the shadow at its base, your vision hemmed in by a few feet of dingy earth! Aim high, and succeed. There is no need of failing, if resolve fixes upon the good in view, energy leads the way, and perseverance backs them both up.

Resolve is like the lightning; it flashes, and a thousand features are revealed; energy is the thunder that seals determination with a mighty and resounding "yea! it shall be;" but perseverance is the still rain that sinks deep into the barren soil, and forthwith it is bright with blooming verdure.

Like the man who stands on a giddy precipice—turn your gaze down, and you are lost; give ear to the vague chimeras, be seduced by fair looking schemes, and the foundation so fairly laid crumbles at your feet. Here are a great many people creeping along a plain called mediocrity; their hands unstayed. The mirror of the past is always before them—upon the wall of memory it hangs, and as they look they drag along with a more unsteady aim; for they behold all their errors too late. Silver hairs, frail as they are, bar the door of progress; the old, old man cannot begin life anew, and the young man who flits about from object to object, because the sun shines a little brighter here, or the prospect is a little more alluring there, will find his aimless life more bitter at the last. Aim high; aim to be the best mechanic, the best farmer, the best merchant, the best lawyer, doctor, teacher, editor, scholar; however insignificant, or however responsible the station you have chosen, strive to confer undying honor upon it; determine to be at the head; only use fair and honorable means; pave not your way with human, bleeding hearts; hedge not yourself in, as you go, with broken promises.

Agricultural.

SAVE YOUR OWN SEED.—Great improvement may be made by a judicious selection of seeds. In almost all crops, some plants will be found more early, or in some respects superior to others. From such, seeds should be carefully selected.

If a cultivator desires to have any production earlier than usual, after procuring an early kind, let the first seeds that ripen on a well grown and productive plant, be secured, and so proceed year after year, and in this way a variety will be obtained that will excel in earliness.

Every variety of vegetable may be rendered more productive, by selecting every year the seeds of the most productive and well formed plants. And this method of improvement will be the cheapest no doubt that can be pursued, as the difference in the cost of good and poor seed is a mere trifle.

Select peas for seed, that grow in long, full pods, on vines that bear abundantly, and if you would have them earlier, take those which ripen first. Choose beans in the same way. Select seed corn from stalks that bear two or more good ears, and take the largest and best formed ears. Choose from stalks that are large at the bottom, and run off to a small top, not very high.

If you would have early onions, and a few scallions, select for seed a few that ripen first, and have a good form. Select the handsomest turnips for seed, having just the form you would choose, if you would have fine crops for the market; and by this selection, for years, you will get a variety that may be relied on.

Follow the same rule in everything. Like produces like, is a general law of nature; the same in the vegetable and animal kingdom.

We selected seed from the first pumpkin that ripened, in a variety which we cultivated for several years. And last year some were ripe in two months and five days from the time of planting.

APPLE TREES.—They who cultivate apple orchards should be careful to keep down the suckers or sprouts which issue from the roots. These produce not only a very unsightly appearance, but tend greatly to diminish the vigor and productiveness of the trees. When suckers are removed, great care should be exercised not to injure the parent stem by a too hard detachment. The process may be easily performed with a sharp knife, of large size, and the fresh wood protected by a paying of some viscid and tenacious substance, which will have a tendency effectually to secure the wound from the action of atmospheric agents, and obviate the evils of decay and rot in the trunk. Some inexperienced persons greatly miss the mark in pruning their fruit and ornamental trees; they cut too far from the body of the tree or branch, and do not take sufficient care to secure the wound. If a limb or branch be absconded close to the point from which it issues, the formation of new wood, in the process of growth, will soon cover the wound, and prevent all bad effects to the tree; but if it be taken off at the distance of two or three inches, the stump will decay, finally become carious or rotten, and produce a morbid condition or diseased action throughout the entire system.

CURIOUS FACT.—The Indians are said to tame wild horses by breathing smartly into their nostrils. The buffalo calf, hid in the prairie, too weak to follow the herd, when the hunter has breathed furiously into his nostrils, will follow him into camp like a puppy. The other day we had a young Durham calf, which had been left by its mother in a distant pasture; when found, it was wild, and retreated. We caught it, and breathed into its nostrils, and after the second attempt it followed us like a dog.—*Gloucester Telegraph.*

This curious result was noticed by Catlin, among the Indians of the upper Mississippi, and the experiment has also been tried with success in England, upon refractory horses. It is supposed to be the secret of the horse tamers of Ireland—the whisperers, who in a few moments made the wildest steeds quite docile; and the effect has recently been attributed to the same principle which is called animal magnetism. The Durham calf was mesmerized.

HOW TO PREVENT MOTHS.—The ravages of the woolen moth may be prevented by the use of any of the following substances: Tobacco, camphor, turpentine, red pepper, and (perhaps the most agreeable for wearing apparel) a mixture of one ounce of cloves, one ounce of rhubarb, and one ounce of cedar shavings, tied up in a bag, and kept in a box or drawer. If the substance be dry, scatter it in the folds of the cloth, carpet, blankets, or furs; if liquid, sprinkle it freely in the boxes, or on the cloth or wrapper laid over or around it.

FEEDING FOWLS.—Fowls require a variety of food. Grain of all kinds is good. Wheat screenings, which may be had at all mills where wheat is ground, constitute a cheap and good feed for fowls. Buckwheat, barley, oats, and Indian corn, should also be given occasionally. They should also have animal food. This may be supplied from the offals of slaughter-houses. Potatoes and turnips will also be found very useful.

NEW DOMESTIC FOWL.—In the Queen's aviary, at Windsor, among many other rare and valuable birds, are seven Cochin China fowls, five hens and two cocks, imported direct from Asia, and presented to the Queen. Such is the extraordinary size of these birds, that, when full grown, they will stand on the ground and feed from a table three feet in height, their usual weight being from 22 to 24 pounds per couple. Their eggs, the shells of which are of a mahogany color, possess a delightful flavor. One of the pullets has laid fifty eggs in eight weeks. Sir George Stanton, in his "Embassy to China," was the first to make this bird known; and it has been described by Temminck as the Fire-Backed Pheasant of China. Parley's Tales of Animals contains a delightful account, with engravings, of the whole animal creation.

GRAFTING WAX is made cheapest by using 3 to 4 parts of rosin, 2 of tallow, and 1 of beeswax. The large quantity of rosin, however, renders it very adhesive to the fingers, as well as to the trees to which it is applied. A less adhesive composition is made of three parts of rosin, two of beeswax and one of tallow.

All Sorts of Paragraphs.

The debt of Ohio is \$17,206,452.
The expense of taking the census in 1790 was \$44,377. In 1850, it was \$1,316,047.

PHILOSOPHERS say that shutting the eyes renders the sense of hearing more acute. A wag suggests that this accounts for the many closed eyes that are seen in our churches on Sunday.

The 10th of May, 1851, is the day fixed on by some Millerites for the destruction of the world.

French papers speak of the death of M. Blampui, member of the Institute of France, and M. David, formerly Professor at the College of France, son of the eminent painter.

A new book, discussing "Spiritual Manifestations," is out in London, entitled—"The Testers Tested; or Table Moving, Turning, and Talking not Diabolical," by the Rev. F. Close.

PENCH has got to be a "Wise Man of the Yeast." He understands that the Mayor of a town in the west of England, has sent round a circular, on his own responsibility, to all the bakers of the place, recommending them during the high price of flour to leave out the yeast, as he has reason to believe that it is the yeast which makes the bread rise!

TOBACCO was first discovered at St. Domingo, in the year 1492, and was used freely by the Spaniards in Yucatan, in 1520. It was introduced into England in 1565, by Sir John Hawkins.

SAFE TRAVELLING.—The Ohio State Democrat, after grave and profound deliberation as to the untold sums which have been vainly expended in the endeavor to produce an invention which shall render railroad travel less liable to accidents, has arrived at the conclusion that the only way to make the travel perfectly safe, will be to dispense with the use of steam, and run the cars by ozen!

The French papers state that a zinc ship, recently built at Nantes, has made a trial trip, and proved an excellent sea boat. She is quite strong, and the metal did not affect her compass.

IN CHINA, when a great personage wishes to die, he takes an ounce of gold leaf, rolls it into a ball, and swallows it. According to the sage psychologists of the Celestial Empire, these balls, once in the stomach, unroll themselves, and adhere to the whole interior of the stomach, like paper on a wall. The stomach, thus girt, ceases to act, and the unhappy man dies suffocated, after a few hours' torpor.

A GOOD CONUNDRUM is the following, by a Miss Barnett, of New York. It won the prize of a silver cup, at a concert of Christy's Minstrels:

"Why is Hiram Powers, the American Sculptor, a contemptible thief and a cruel man? Because he chiseled a poor Greek girl out of a block of marble, and afterwards made her his slave."

CALIFORNIA.—The present population of California is estimated at 329,500, of whom 215,000 are Americans, 25,000 Germans, 25,000 French, 37,000 Spanish, 5,000 other whites, 20,000 Indians, and 2,500 negroes. Of the whole number, about one-fifth are women, and one-tenth children.

RUSSIAN CITIES.—St. Petersburg, Moscow and Odessa are the only cities in Russia whose population exceeds 100,000. There are only four towns containing more than fifty thousand inhabitants each, and eighteen or twenty with a population exceeding 25,000.

Sheridan wrote, "Women govern us; let us try to render them perfect. The more they are enlightened, so much the more we shall be." On the cultivation of the minds of women depends the wisdom of men. Napoleon said, "The future destiny of the child is always the work of the mother."

The Boston post says: "There are thirteen thousand marriageable girls in the factories of Lowell. It is pleasant to know in this world of misery, that there are thirteen thousand men yet to be made happy."

The British Admiralty have announced that if intelligence of Sir John Franklin, or his ships the Erebus and Terror, and of the officers and crews being alive, is not received by the 31st of March next, they will be considered as having died in Her Majesty's service.

GOLD DUST.—The amount of gold dust brought to San Francisco from the Northern Mines, by Wells, Fargo & Co's Express, during the month of March last past, was \$1,872,142, and from the Southern Mines, during the same period, the amount was \$746,262, making a total of \$2,618,404.

About one hundred prominent members of the Unitarian Association met in Boston, to devise measures for extending the principles of their denomination, and to more generally circulate the writings of eminent Unitarians. A resolution was adopted in favor of raising a permanent fund, to carry out the above objects.

There are thirteen individual banking houses all on one street, in San Francisco. They never charge less than 3 per cent per month for money, and often more. All of them do a large business.

During 1853 there were 4600 marriages in California.

There were five hundred cars in the Railroad Depots at Baltimore, on Saturday, loaded with produce from the West. Fifteen ships, loading for Liverpool, were in the harbor the same day.

The New York Herald says that no less than eleven vessels are fitting out in different ports in Cuba, for the coast of Africa, the object being to load and return with negroes; also, that seven vessels have sailed within six or eight weeks, from Baltimore, Boston and New York, with the direct intention of being employed as slavers.

They are about admitting the American railroad car into England. It is admitted to be, in every respect, superior to the car now in use on the English railways.

The following quaint epitaph is copied from a tombstone in Cowly Churchyard, Wilts, England:

Once ruddy and plump,
Though now a cold lump,
Beneath this old stump
Lies honest Joe Clump.
Who wished his neighbor no evil,
Although by death's thump,
He is laid on his rump,
Yet up he shall jump
When he hears the last trump,
And triumph o'er death and the devil.

PIGEONS.—The Cincinnati Commercial states that a tract of woodland in Franklin county, Ia., about ten miles in length by five in width, is nightly occupied by countless multitudes of wild pigeons, which pile upon each other as eagles tumble, that the strongest branches give way, killing in their fall thousands of the pigeons. The flocks are miles in extent, and sweep over the heavens like thunder clouds. The roar of the innumerable wings during the hours of arrival and departure at the roost, is tremendous. The pigeons are in good condition, and make excellent pies.

NEW SHIPS.—Mr. Abraham C. Bell, successor to the late Jacob Bell, has commenced building a fine ship, of 1,350 tons, for Lane & West, to be employed in the Home trade. She will be of the same dimensions and model as the Robert L. Lane, just launched. A large three-decked clipper has been commenced in the same yard, for Thomas Wardle. She will measure 1,703 tons, and will be commanded by Capt. Hamilton, late of the Eclipse. Her length will be 200 feet; breadth 42 feet; depth 28. Some of the best ships in port are from Mr. Bell's yard.—N. Y. Herald.

The Washington Sentinel gives the following particulars in regard to the equestrian statue of Washington, which Clark Mills is executing by order of Congress:

"The statue will be of immense proportions, the head of the horse to be eight feet in length, or four times larger than in the natural subject, and the nose of Washington to be fifteen inches in length. These points will afford some idea of the contemplated size of the statue. The design now is to elevate it to a height of seventy feet, that it may be seen miles distant from every direction."

A HUMOROUS LEGAL INSTRUMENT.—Not long since, the contents of a small confectionary and toy shop were seized for debt, but afterwards replevined. A deed of trust to secure the payment was accordingly executed, and recorded at the City Hall. A friend, who had the pleasure of reading the document, informs us that some of the items were duly set forth in this wise: Five pounds of candies, assorted; eight dozen soldiers; six dozen cats; four dozen hogs, and two dozen with riders on them; and seven dozen assorted babies.—*Washington Sentinel.*

There was something rather "Yankee-like" in the conduct of the sailor who was trying to get "picked up," and placed on board a boat full of men, in a storm on Lake Erie; but the men could not take him in without endangering the lives of all on board. For half an hour he hung manfully to the gunwale; but finally, his strength failing him, he called out to the oarsmen, who were struggling to reach the shore:

"Hold on, boys! My life is insured for five hundred dollars, and I abandon myself to the company; take me on board and claim salvage!"