Current Literature.

"FUTURES" IN COTTON As in the drill the seed I sow, To me bright pictures come and go.

As I, in thought, o'er land and sea, Go with the crop that is to be

I feel the dust, I hear the day, From greaning press and while ng gin.

I set the swiftly gliding train, Thro' swamps, o'er valleys, hills and plains; The sesport with its rush and roar.
The fore to of masts that line the shore!

The stately ships that night and day, Thro' trackless waters cleave their way.

On their white decks my watch I keep Mongst all the wonders of the deep.

I see the tempest's writh burst out; I watch the writhing water spout; And, driving headlong thro' the sto m, Leviathan's stupendous feam.

I hear at last the joyous call Of "Land he!" from the topmast tall,

I see the factory belching smoke, And pulsicg with the engine's stroke;

Then won ler what the destiny

Of this crop I plant shall be. The lint that from these seeds shall spring May clothe a beggar or a King.

To bride or habe some part may fall; Some swathe the dead for burial.

As a paper, it may tidings bear Of glory, gladness or despair.

Thus as we toil and fold our hand To fellow-men on sea and land.

For the' our work, by deed or word, Like fairy Puck, the globe we gird.

And what we do for good or ill, It may thro' all the girdle thrill.

Then let the messages we send Be ever those of friend to friend.

And may so Chanc'llor, Kaiser, King, Cut with a sword the magic ring

But War's red flag for aye be furled, And P. ace ber light shed 'round the world -J. R. Eggleston, in Planter's Journal.

A Strange Wild Story.

"A diamond ring on fingers that sew for a living!

The envy and suspicion that prompted this remark, and others like it, was turned into pity, when the women of Bloomsboro' learned that the genteel and reserved stranger, who had sought a home among them, was burdened with a great

This lady and her little girl wore handsome clothes-they had no others-and their appearance and manners were in strange contrast with their surroundings at Aunt Polly Carter's. In explanation, the kind old woman told her neighbors that Mrs. Van Dale was her great-niece; that her own pretty home had been broken up, her money wrongfully taken from her, and she had come to live with her, and was trying to get her living by making fine shirts for a city store.

Years after this, when greatly depressed and fearing that she was about to die and leave her little girl friendless, Mrs. Van Dale told her story to one who had manifested sympathy without vulgar curiosity. Using her own words as nearly as I can after an interval of more than twenty-five ten miles through the cane-brake after in the cane-brake after in the cane-brake after the ranges of Saturn, on the supposition of piracy, and statements of facts respect the ranges of Saturn, on the supposition years, I will repeat the story here.

"After my mother's death, I went to sea two voyages with my father, who was a sea captain-once to Calcutta and once to Hong Kong. After this, his health failed, and he gave up his ship, and we traveled in our own country for about a year, when he died at Saratoga

I was left with a small property of about twelve thousand dollars, in charge of his only relative—a half-brother—for whom my father had sent in his illness. Of course I was heart-broken, for I was alone in the world. The only personal friend and relative I had was this kind old farmer. He took me after my father's burial to his home.

The moment I entered it, I saw that his wife, who had no children, and whose only purpose in life was to save both work and money, was not glad to see me. She did not even kiss the poor, forlorn little girl whose coming had so surprised

After a dull and unhappy year, my nucle sent me to a boarding-school; and I went gladly, feeling sure I could find there more of the love for which my heart was aching than I had found in my uncle's home

"My hopes were realized. The princi pal of the school was a tender, motherly woman, and encouraged real friendship among the girls. When I had been there a year or two, the brother of my roommate-a graduate of a medical schoolcame to visit her; and the first hour when we two met, my fate was interwoven with

his.
"My uncle was satisfied with the young man's family and prospects, and gave his consent to o r marriage; and in four months after that, he gave me and my twelve thousand dollars into stranger

hands. 'I was taken to my husband's home, a rambling old house, said to have been built before the Revolutionary War. There were modern houses around it. which were occupied by the brothers of my husband-rough looking men-and by a widowed sister. The sister was the oldest of the family; and she was the

business, and others in shipping, 'down the coast,' whatever that was

"I often heard loud talking between the young men and the old people, who always seemed pleading with them, for or

against something, I knew not what.
"When I had been in the house about six months, I was startled and distressed. one day, by my husband's telling me that he must leave me for some time, and that, if I felt lonesome with the old people, I could go to Effic's

"Effic, the widowed sister, seemed more ike a stalwart man in woman's clothes than she did like a woman. She always looked at me as if reading my thoughts. I told my husband that there was a weirdness about Effie's house that made my blood run cold; and added, I am afraid of your sister."

"He asked me if any one had been telling me stories about her

"I replied that no one had spoken to me about her, in fact I knew no one out of his family, and I pleaded with him to take me with him. But he put me off, saying his head. that he was going to a lonely part of the coast on business, and should occupy a but while there with two old negroes and several rough men with whom he should not dare leave me in his long absences on his scientific expeditions further down

"That night two men came to the house and carried some iron-bound boxes from a locked closet in my room room over to Effic's house. My husband asked me not to mention this to the old people, who were then absent, and added, Doctors were then absent, and added, heap! have many things that people ought not heap! "But dey isn't no wuss dan dat great

the coast and into the interior.

to see, you know,'
"I thought of skeletons and dead bodwas very natural for me to believe him.

"When my young sister-in-law came home from school to spend her vacation I was very happy. But she seemed it so. troubled. She was gieved to find me still "I there in that old house, and said, 'Thad promised me faithfully that he'd never bring you here. When he comes home, house with your own money."

"I told her I had given all my money to him. She sighed, and made no reply. party we were. "My husband wrote me very often, mailing his letters from a Southern city. He was always coming home next month. In the meantime my little girl was born, hundred miles with me and then took to

before I saw him again. "When he did return, he said he would

buy a place in town and stay with me, but he soon had a letter which he said contained intelligence that would necessarily take him again away for several weeks at least. I then told him I should certainly go back to my uncle unless he made some provision for a home for me and my child,

"A few hours later he came into the house, kissed me and said that he had just heard the said news that Jeff-one of his brothers—had been drowned at sea, but I saw no signs of grief in the house, and I did not bolieve it. Jeff's place, however, was bought for me. It was under the shadow of the widowed sister's house, and

I felt as if she was set as a spy over me. "Even my servant bore the family name. My husband was always so tender in his manner towards me and our child. that although my confidence in his uprightness was very much shaken, I felt I would be contentented anywhere if we

were together. pleaded with him to take us, but he said it was not practicable; it was a filled one day with the details of crimes larger leaving the last conveyance. 'You will not be happy there,' he said, At last, however, he promised to improve his accommodations and send for us, but he did

not keep his word. "With all their riches-and they were thought to be wealthy-the Van Dales were, for some reason, ostracised in that region; and I grew so very nervous by the continual mystery that was always about me that sometimes I was almost

"One day I packed my trunks, when Effie, the sister, was away, and sent them to a storehouse in New York, and with a bag as my only luggage I set off for that undefined localits, 'Down the coast.' I knew the name of the large city near the place I sought, and of the locality of the hamlet where I knew my husband

"I traveled day and night. The cars carried me to within five miles of my estination, and there I took a wagon. My 'low white' driver, taking me for a nigger hunter, shrewdly suggested that there was an old man and woman off in the brake that never came out, and that they might be my 'niggers," and he pointed out a rude path which would lead

me to them. "When, after a cruel tramp of two or three miles, I fell fainting on the cabin floor with my child in my arms, old Hippy and Tobe, the negroes who lived thought I was a ghost come to punish them for their sins. When I told them who I was they feirly turned white. They said that the mas'rs wouldn't be home for at least four days, but that they would cherish me right smart them

selves. "I soon learned that Jeff who had beeen 'lost at sen,' and Dave, who was in the 'West Indies,' were both with my

husband. "Old Hippy asked me if I was 'Mas'r Thad's true and sarsin wife-married to im de way dat sticks?"

"When I told her 'yes,' she sighed and aid: 'Dis yere's a mighty wicked world! I wish that the good Lord would take us all out on't! Does you pray,

skinned right clean by de lightnin. Wonder is we ain't all skinned by de lightnin!

"I told her I had seen his wife just be fore I left home, and she nodded her head and said Not dis yere one! She was a pirate's wife fust, and she helped 'em in Je business!

"That night, after a supper of rice and 'possum, we sat listening to the howling of the storm, when Tobe remarked, 'Good night for business this. We shan't see dem ones back; anyhow not for de

"These words of Tobe's half revealed the wretched truth to me, and they aroused a feeling not of weakness, but of strength. I asked him to tell me what he knew of this family, and promised that if he would I would help him to escape North.

"But dese dogs is trained to chase us, missus,' he said.

"I told him to kill the dogs. That plan

"'Dey's a bad gineration,' he said. Dey had trouble wid officers up Norf, and so come down here to carry on de wrackin' business, where's less law to watch 'em. Dey lures vessels on to de rocks wid false lights and wracks 'em. Den dey robs de ships and de drownded passengers.'

"I hasn't nebber heerd of one of 'em washin' ashore alive,' he said in answer to my inquiry. 'Dey buries 'em in de sand. I sometimes peeps and I listens to 'em o' nights, and I know a

giant sister o' their'n dat takes de gold ies, and turned pale; but he laughed, and de jewelaries in trunks up Norf, and said, 'They are filled with surgical and hides'em up; oh, dere's de heart o' instruments, and such things;' and it a pirate into her bussum! And, o, missus, dere's heaps o' buried gold and sich round here. I reckon dat dere's some onder dat harf-stun, de dogs watches

"I told him I would not touch it any sooner than I would a serpent.

"We left the hut the next night, that we might not attract attention, and insist on his taking a house in town, and started for the North-Tobe carrying beginning paretice of his profession. Buy Anna, and Hippy carrying my bag and bundle—and reached the car just at daybreak, and a poor, bedraggled-looking

"The negroes, who declared they had been stolen from a kind master and preferred to go back to him, rode about a and she could walk and say many words the roads to reach their former homewith more money, which I gave them from my small store, than they had ever

"I left no trace of myself, and the surprise of the men must have been great when they returned to their cabin to find the negroes gone and the dogs dead. Of course they did not dare to pursue the blacks, for fear of it drawing attention to themselves and make known their dread-

"When I reached New York I took my trunks from the store-house. I knew that Effic would seek me at my uncle's; and remembering that my father always sent a Christmas gift to his Aunt Polly Carter, I wrote to her and received a hearty welcome to the little farm-a haven of rest

and peace.
"Tobe and Hippy had spoken of my husband as being unlike his brothers. They thought him only their tool. But love for him had vanished. I rerolved that the Van Dales should never Dublin, before the Science Association at have my child."

About three years after this recital by the poor wife, the New York papers were filled one day with the details of crimes earth or any other planet at any stage of ing the wrecking of ships for robbery. A that they are either solid or liquid, has description was also given of an amazon, been more than doubted, and the most

The next day Aunt Polly and Mrs. Van Dale went off on a long journey. In a few weeks the former returned alone, saying that her niece had concluded to live in a

milder climate.

Mrs. Van Dale had evidently fled lest she might in some way be traced and made a witness against those of whom she stood in mortal fear.

Many persons in middle life can remember the trial of those wreckers and the disclosures made of their crimes; but none of them knew the story of this young life that was blighted by a hasty connection with them, and was thus made a sufferer for their sins.-Youth's Companion

A New Departure in Education.

Lasell Seminary at A degradate made qui e a new departure in the education of young women by establishing classes in cooking, dress-cutting and milinery, these branches being taught in a practical way by competent cocks, dressmakers and milliners. While cocks, dressmakers and 'milliners. While there is nothing to be said against the 'high education' of women, and while we believe in affording them all the opportunities for study and advancement that the other sex enjoys, we can but think that a great many young women would receive more real benefit from such studies as these at Lasell than from 'extractine' Greek, roots or other study of the tracting" Greek roots or other study of the classics. The demand of the times is more and more for industrial training-for an education which can be turned to practical ad-vantage in after life, and we shall very likely hear of numerous other "new departures" in this line ere many years roll by.

A Frightened Englishman.

A story is told of an Englishman who was obliged to travel in Ireland-a duty he ap proached with fear and trembling. His affrighted senses were startled on hearing a fellow passenger in the railway carriage remark to another: "I'm just afther bein over to Kilpatrick." "And I," replied the other, am afther be n'over to Kilmary" "What morderers they are!" thought the English—"And to think that they talk of their assassinations so publicly!" But the conversation now!" affrighted senses were startled on hearing a manners.

"The family called my husband 'Dr. Thad,' although he had never had a patient, and they seemed very proud of him and of his learning, as well they might be. I was told that some of his brothers were engaged extensively in the oyster dar, twixt de two great pines dat's been "And to think that they ta'k of their assassinations so publicly!" But the conversation went on. "And there are you going now!" akd assassina No. 1. "Thu gon,' home, and then to Kilmore," was No. 2's reply. The Englishman's blood curdled. "Kilmore is interested and the property of the control of the contro

Scientific.

One of the most important influences which is of course as old as human curiosity, and is only new in its results. The effect of the great advance in scientific thought has been to modify considerably most forms of religious belief can not be denied; and, in spite of many attempted reconciliations of the two, it is not difficult to see that some of the leading dogmas of Christianity are doomed. Fortunately, one of the rewards of the freedom that is given to science is a lack of venom in its attack, and, on the other side, there is an absence of bitterness in those whose opinions it unavoidably alters. There are, of course, exceptions. Modern science has not expelled arrogance from the world, and enlightenment has not wholly driven out bigotry. Yet, in the calmness with which the controversy is carried on, we see how wide-spread is the belief that dogmas ar less essential than the truth which all men alike are seeking. As Professor Asa Gray puts it: "No sensible person now believes what the most sensible people believed formerly-settled scientific belief must control religion." It is one of the time honored jests which the late Lord Beaconsfield thrust into his last novel, that the religion of sensible people is what sensible people never tell. They may not, but their tolerance of new truths and the altered position of ecclesiasticism declare all that need be known. The present interest in science is dis tinetly part of the revolutionary movement which demands, with restless curisity, why everything should be as it is This is the question that is put to every existing institution, and science often gives a serviceable answer. The answer s a leveling one to all conventionalities, ecause science concerns itself only about because science concerns itself only about facts, and it is heard now because science can only exist where thought is free. Freedom of thought is a powerful solvent, and it is especially destructive to all the conventionalities which exist by means of the common agreement that they shall not be examined. We see that in polities the divine right of kings is called in question, and in the uniform tendency of modern democracy the assumption of government by those who are governed. In social matters we perceive a similar movesocial matters we perceive a similar movement towards the emancipation of the comprehension of particulars, and as human being have succeeded in understanding themselves they have thrown aside the convenient habit of dividing the rest of the world into vast homogeneous lassess, and have reconized the dignity and importance of each individual of the race.—From "Science and Conscience," by Professor T. S. Perry, in Popular Science Monthly. A New View of the Earth's Evolution

The assumption that the earth was at ne time in a fluid condition, as held by Laplace and by many astrohomers and geologists, was disputed with a suggestive array of evidence by Dr. Houghton, of Montreal. Following are some of his reasons for doubting the fluidity of the

1. The possibility of the equilibrium of who was taken and who would figure at probable hypothesis concerning them is that they consist of swarms of discrete meteoric stones, discrete meaning that they are separate from each other in space. 2. It is difficult to understand the low

specific gravity of Jupiter and the other planets on the supposition that they are either solid or liquid, for we know of no substance light enough to form them. If the outer planets consist of discrete meteoric stones moving around a solid or liquid nucleus, the difficulty respecting the specific gravity would disappear.

3. The recent researches connecting the periodic showers of shooting stars with comets tend in the direction of showing that comets in cooling break up into discrete solid particles, and that probably tle olar nebula cooled in like manner into s parate fiery tears, which soon modified by radiation into the cold of space. BREEDER OF MERINO SHEEP, Salem, Marion County, Oregon

Mr. Huggins' recent comparisons of the spectroscopic appearances of comets and incandescent portions of meteoric stone shows the presence in both of hydrogen and nitrogen compounds, confirming the conclusions drawn from the identity of the path of comets and metreoric shooting stars.

From all these and other considerations it is allowable to suppose that the earth and moon, when they separated from the solar nebula, did so in the form of solid meteoric stones, each of them having the temperature of interstellar space—that is something not much warmer than 460 deg. Fahrenheit below the freezing point of water.—Scientific American.

Importance of Small Things in Science. Not long ago I heard this story, which

may serve as a sort of overture to what I ant to say: An excellent gentleman, on Ing informed that a certain scientific man was engaged in work up n frogs, replied: "Why spend his time upon such trivial work, when there is the human soul to inves-tigate?" The feeling which actuated the speaker is one which I repeat is not uncommon, and I may add it is quite natural, bit it is certainly wrong in principle. If we analyze the underlying thought of those who cavil at ordinary investigation, we shall find that there are two distinct ideas contained in it : First, that in order that any investiga tion shall be of value or of importance, it must bear direct fruit. The substance dis-covered must be useful to some practical pur-

pose, either as a medicine or as a dye-s u ", an pose, either as a medicine or as a dye-s'u', an explosive or a poison—no matter what, so that it can be used for something. A second idea is, that in order to solve the problems of nature, only those of the most evident imo tance should be attacked. Such questions s, What is life? What is electricity? What is the at raction of gravity? What is force? What is mutter? These are the subjects which is the original of many, should occupy What Science is Doing for Modern Thought.

now at work is doubtless that of science, which is of course as old as human cur-As regards the latter idea, it may be said

t at there are a great many very strongly for-tifed citade's in nature. Sei n ific investi-gators have attacked these from time to time and have been repulsed. A good commander having discovered that a stronghold is invul-nerable from a given point does not attempt its cauture from that side, but looks around is capture from that side, but looks around him from that side, 'u looks around him for other means of approach; he strengthens his forces, he collects more ammunition, and endeavors to keep his army generally in good condition, studying the surrounding country and awaiting new revelations. There is, further, a great deal of insignificant camp work to be done and if this is realested ultimate.

ther, a great deal of this is neglected, ultimate to be done, and if this is neglected, ultimate secess cannot be hoped for.
So, too, the scientific investigator, finding that a certain problem of paramount importance cannot be solved, turns his attention to others, the solution of which may, in the end, contribute to clearing up great mysteries. There are hosts of minor questions to be an-wered, and these must be answered before the fundamental questions of nature can be. Through the insignificant lie the roads of advancement. A fallen leaf, a bit of stone, tiny flower, a microscopic animal, may contain within themselves the answers to the most important questions. It is not the leaf, or the stone, or the animal that is especially investigated, but the principles involved in their existence.—Popular Science Monthly,

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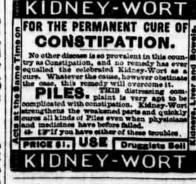
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