

THE WEST.

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OWNED NO SOCIAL SUPERIOR.

The Early New England Farmer Not Like His Prototype of the Present Day.

The first most forceful and most conspicuous social fact in the early New England community, where almost everybody was a farmer, was the leveling of the class distinction. The soil tiller who owned his land might have to toil for a living like a serf, but the Yale Review says he never incurred the serf's degradation. Around him and on the same level the great mass of the community were his fellow farmers, whom he never gazed upon from below, either as a matter of social rank or from the plane of inferior vocation. Slightly beneath him were the class of farm laborers—not many, when wooded lands were cheap, nor profoundly lowered as a class, in days when farmers themselves interchanged services and toiled even harder than their own field hands. The country merchant was, unless exceptionally rich, the farmer's peer, no better and no worse, in the social scale. Above the farmer stood only the men of the professions, usually college graduates, including the minister and the squirearchs. But these, while they formed a certain distinctive "cult," were too few to be a very strongly emphasized group or impress the class distinction harshly. Of the two most prominent, the minister, vested with powers well-nigh pontifical, yet held them not of men; and the old country squire, under the microscope of time and New England novels, have obtained in our day a greatly magnified importance which they never really possessed. If the farmer had to wrestle hard with his niggard soils and had slight education and few creature comforts, he had, as offsets, simple wants, social equality and an assertive manhood. He was in a large sense the civis Romanus of his time and place.

SAVED BY HIS ELOQUENCE.

It Was an Extemporaneous Speech, But There Was Nothing Dull About It.

"The much-admired gift of extemporaneous speaking is disappearing," said Prof. Williamson, of Texas, to a St. Louis Globe-Democrat writer. "In this connection the ordinary after-dinner platitudes occupying five or ten minutes, which seem like five or ten hours, are not meant. I have reference to a speech of an hour or longer. It is almost impossible nowadays to hear a speaker make a speech of any length that is really extemporaneous. Perhaps such speeches never were entirely spontaneous as was claimed, but they were more so than the so-called extemporaneous speeches we hear nowadays.

"I remember hearing one speech in my life that I am satisfied was delivered without preparation, however, and it was an eloquent one, too. It was in California in '49. We were busy at work, a crowd of us, getting out gold, and one night two brothers named Burke—popular fellows—lost every ounce of their dust. Some thief had crept into the tent and stolen it. Suspicion fell at once, and without any reason, on an Englishman in the crowd, who had held himself aloof from every one. A search of his tent found more dust than it seemed reasonable for him to have accumulated, and he was at once taken to a tree with a rope around his neck and given fifteen minutes to pray. The fifteen minutes reached an hour and a half, and such a flow of eloquence upon the subject of circumstantial evidence I have never heard before or since. His power may be imagined when I tell you that the crowd in that country and in that day was influenced to change the verdict of capital punishment to banishment and confiscation of his property. He walked down to Frisco and took a job as bartender. A month after we found that the cook we had in camp was the thief, and, after stringing him up, I was sent to hunt up the Englishman and turn his property back to him. His name was divers, and he was a 'varsity man in England, and a senior wrangler. I found when I met him. He had a pile of several thousand dollars, and went straight to England. I never heard of him afterward, but I will never forget that eloquent and extemporaneous address."

GATHERED IN FOREIGN LANDS.

THE unexplored area of Canada is one million square miles.

DENMARK produces the finest butter in the world, and as its price is low when judged by its quality it has almost closed the English market for Irish butter.

EIFFEL'S plan for a great bridge across the river Neva at St. Petersburg has just been accepted, and the St. Petersburg municipality has voted the twenty-six million rubles required to build it.

OVER one hundred persons condemned to death are now in prison in Greece awaiting execution of their sentence. The population of the country is hardly two millions. Nine people were guillotined in five days just before Christmas.

THE custom of having a court poet—one whose duty it is to write to order, as it were—is at present confined to England, among civilized nations. In ancient times the custom was well-nigh universal. Every court had its poet and painter, as well as its dwarf and buffoon.

ATTAR OF ROSES.

Expense and Trouble Necessary for the Production of a Single Pound.

Attar of roses is generally spoken of as the most extravagantly costly perfume in the world, but when the trouble and expense of raising the roses and securing the essence is taken into account it is really very reasonable in price, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. If the delicious perfume were produced in this country and the lowest wages in the land paid for labor it could not be retailed at even three times the existing prices. Nearly all the attar of roses in the world comes from the portion of Europe which used to be a part of Turkey, but which is now under Russian influence. To secure a pound of essence it is necessary to have an entire acre of ground covered with roses and to have a good crop even then, and then the cultivators cannot rely on receiving more than seventy or seventy-five dollars a pound.

The labor of cultivation is very arduous, and plucking the roses is even more so, the work being done by women, whose hands are torn all to pieces by the work, and whose pay barely suffices to buy food. Roses have been cultivated in other countries for a similar purpose, but the return is nowhere so large as in the neighborhood of the Balkans, where the soil and climate appear exceptionally adapted for the purpose. It may be added that the sweet smell of a genuine Turkish cigarette is the result of adulterating the tobacco with the refuse from the rosebuds and stalks.

DOINGS IN EUROPE.

SEVENTEEN deaths on Alpine mountain tours occurred in the Swiss Alps in 1891. Sixteen were tourists and one a guide.

NEATLY worked darns and patches have been discovered in the cloths used in swathing some of the Egyptian mummies.

By a law passed July 8, 1892, the use of the metric system of weights and measures is obligatory throughout Spain and her colonies in private as well as in public contracts.

WHY HE WAS CONFIDENT.

The Prisoner Kept His Strongest Evidence Till the End of the Trial.

It was a case of chicken stealing, and the prints of bare feet were found in the gravel around the henhouse.

The lawyer for the prosecution was one who, if he had been Napoleon Bonaparte, never would have crossed the Alps; he would simply have pulled them up by the roots and thrown them over the fence.

The prisoner was an unknown tramp, and lame at that.

"You say you don't know anything about this theft?" queried the lawyer, fiercely.

"That's what I swore to, sir," said the tramp, meekly.

"You were in the back yard of Slam-tipp's house about supper time?"

"Yes, sir."

"You know the location of the hen-

A GREGYMAN in Oxford has invited the men who frequent the river on Sundays to come to church in their boating flannels. Hitherto such customs had been frowned upon, and the boatmen had not gone to church.

EVERYTHING about the new Atlantic steamer, the Campania, is of British make except the rudder. That is made of a single steel plate. It is so wide that there is no British firm having the necessary machinery for rolling it, so the job had to be sent to Krupp.

GOSSIP OF EUROPEAN THRONES.

THE Austrian emperor has approved the bill to protect the edelweiss against being gathered by the casual Alpine climber.

KAISER WILLIAM will keep the entire crew which sailed on the Meteor on the salaried list throughout the winter so as to make sure of them next season.

THE dowager marchioness of Huntly is an accomplished botanist, and has a large collection of plants, nearly all of her own gathering. These she has herself classified and named.

VICTORIA'S maids of honor, who are paid \$1,500 a year for their services, earn their salaries. They are obliged to appear before the queen in a new gown every day and to be in readiness to attend her majesty at any and every hour of the day.

THINGS MILITARY.

REAR ADMIRAL A. T. DALE is to be the next commander in chief of the British squadron in the Pacific. Admiral Hotham's period of office will expire in February.

RECRUITING sergeants in England have no longer a monopoly of rewards for obtaining young soldiers. By an order just issued, any person, civilian or soldier, who brings a suitable recruit for enlistment will be remunerated.

FRANCE has a total of 80,000 men in her active navy and Great Britain has 53,200. Her reserve includes 150,000 men and Great Britain's 55,000. Russia has the third strongest navy, and Spain probably has the fourth, if we can judge the strength of navies by the number of sailors and marines in them.

MISS HULDAH FREDERICH, of the Pall Mall Gazette staff, is the first woman to be taken on the regular staff of a London paper. Although of German nationality she can both write and speak English fluently and knows both Russian and French sufficiently well to act as special correspondent in St. Petersburg or Paris at need.

LAW AND LAWYERS.

GIRLS over twelve can make valid wills under the laws of Scotland.

A BANKRUPT merchant at Acadia Mines, N. S., has been sentenced to two months in jail for having willfully contracted a debt without having at the time a reasonable expectation of being able to pay it.

THE name of an alleged rain compeller, who has brought suit in a Nebraska court for \$500 for producing a shower last summer, is Swisher—a name peculiarly suggestive of a driving rainstorm from the east.

A JUDGE on the English bench told the jury in a murder trial at Yorkshire recently that it was his opinion "if one man called another a liar a slight blow in retaliation is justifiable." He added: "This may be new law, but it is common sense."

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"You know the location of the hen-

house?"

"Yes, sir."

"You were seen on the road in front of the house some time after dark?"

"I was there, sir."

"You were in the yard after dark?"

"Yes, sir, and after supper also, sir," replied the prisoner, with a wan smile at his innocent little joke in such a place.

"And you were seen by the cook sitting on the doorstep with your shoe off?"

"Yes, sir; there was a pebble in it that was too big to get out of the same hole it got in at."

"Now, sir, I propose to prove that you made those tracks with your bare feet while you were stealing the chickens of the plaintiff."

"You can't do it, sir," said the prisoner, mildly but firmly.

"And why not, pray?" asked the lawyer, with fine sarcasm.

"Because, sir, I've one wooden leg, sir."—Boston Globe.

FRENCH CIVIL MARRIAGE.

The Curious Ceremonies Which Prevail on Such Occasions.

While people dying at St. Denis, in France, are to be buried according to the mayor's ukase, those who desire to be married by "civil rights" have everything in their favor.

At a recent wedding in the town hall the salle des mariages was profusely decorated with plants and flowers.

After the mayor had tied the nuptial knot an orator especially engaged in Paris made an appropriate speech, and the "Wedding March" of Mendelssohn was played on a piano.

Some of the friends of the bride and bridegroom next sang the waltz from Gounod's "Romeo et Juliette;" "Bebe," by Henrion; the "Romance of Maitre Pathelin," by Bazin; the "Marche aux Choux," of Chateau, and, finally, the duet from the "Ode Triomphale," of Augusta Holmes.

The engagement of the orator from Paris is a new departure at "civil weddings." The hint was apparently borrowed from the procedure followed at the funerals of obscure persons whose friends want to have a panegyric pronounced over them, as is customary in France at the graves of notable men.

Baby Jack's Theology.

The doctrine of original sin is a difficult one to controvert, taking the world at large into consideration, but it is one which Baby Jack, aetat twenty-three months, steadily and sturdily refuses to admit into his theology.

He says: "Now I lay me," with the utmost fervor and in a language of his own, which only the audacity of a mother would claim to mean anything. He asks: "Dod" to "b'ess" every one of his relatives to the forty-fourth degree, not forgetting his pet cat and "Hoo-Polly," the unclean rag-doll, but when mamma prompts: "Please make Jack a good boy," Master Jack says: "Das" in response as earnest as that of any good Methodist brother. "Das" means "yes," and Jack thinks he is a good boy, and no moral suasion can induce him to suggest to Providence that there is the slightest necessity for making over.—N. Y. Recorder.

A LESSON IN HISTORY.

MOHAMMED began the Koran at thirty-five.

THE folding envelope was first used in the year 1839.

ENGLISH books were first printed by Caxton in the year 1474.

DIAMOND cutting by machinery was first done in Holland in 1489.

APPLES were worth from one shilling to two shillings each in the reign of Henry VII.

FASHION'S DECREES.

BUTTONS are very large and are made of metal, pearl, jet and crocheted.

FOUR to six-button gloves of medium heavy kid are in demand for street wear.

VERY rich white satia brocades are brought out expressly for wedding dresses.

REAL laces, point, valenciennes and the like are selling better than for many years.

THE newest slippers are made of black moire, and are finished with an elaborate garniture of jet.