

Leoneese Love Song.
BY JOAQUIN MILLER.

If earth is an oyster, love is the pearl,
Made pure from pure essences;
Then loose the gold of your hair, my girl,
And hide my pearl in your tresses.

There is many a love as this lar,
But never such love as this is;
Then kill me dead with your love, my love
And cover me up with kisses.

So, coral to coral and pearl to pearl,
And a cloud of curls above me,
O, bury me deep in my beautiful girl,
And then confess you love me.

Then kill me dead, and cover me deep,
Where none can see or discover,
So deep in your heart to sleep to sleep
In the darling tomb of lovers.

The world goes over my beautiful girl
In a flutter of gold and white of roses,
In clouds of splendor in oceans of pearl;
But hear the heaven repose.

The world is wider men go their ways,
Put love it is wise, and of all the hours,
And of all the beautiful sun-born days,
It sighs its sweets as the bee sips flowers.

—*Ladies' Monthly for July*

Merrivether—How He Tried to Scare Mrs. Merrivether and Faerie.

Merrivether lives in one of a row of houses which, as is generally the case in Philadelphia, are uniform. He thought the other night he would scare Mrs. Merrivether while she was in bed, and so he rose, dressed in his night shirt, went up on the roof where she slept. He tied a nail to a piece of string, lay down on the eaves, leaned over and tapped the bed-room window with the nail. Mrs. Merrivether, meanwhile, was not asleep, but she followed him up, shut the trap-door in the loft, and went back to bed. To make matters worse, a policeman, who had been watching him, felt certain that he was a burglar, and began to practice at him with his revolver. The manner in which that old man dodged about those chimneys, clad in that simple robe of white, would have done credit to a performer on the flying trapeze. At last he came to his trap-door, and finding that it had been opened, he went down. On entering his bed-room, he saw a man turning down the gas. As soon as he shouted "thieves" the man also shouted, and the woman in the room gave a wild and awful yell. Then the man turned up the gas and seized the pistol, and as Merrivether dashed down stairs, he perceived that he had got into the wrong house. As he flew to the parlor and hid under the sofa, the other man woke the whole neighborhood with a rattle, and in ten minutes six policemen came in, and after a search, dragged Merrivether out, and marched him to the Station-house. When he came out in the morning, he walked home in the turnkey's pants, and began to eat his breakfast without asking a blessing; and when Mrs. Merrivether inquired if his muttered ejaculations, "Fool!" and "Idiot," referred to her, he said she might wear them if they fitted her. He will probably not play any fresh jokes on Mrs. Merrivether soon again.

For Canning Fruit.

I use mostly glass cans, says A. R. Rogers, knowing they are cheapest and best; cheapest because the cost at first is but little more than for tin ones, and they can be used for a succession of years just as good as the first, while tin cans may be used with safety but one year. The glass cans are better, because we can see every day just how the fruit is keeping; and if any show signs of not keeping good, we can use them first. We often hear people say if the top of the fruit in the can molds, and forms a thick, solid coating over the fruit, the fruit will not ferment or rot, as it is often called, but the flavor of the fruit is injured very much. Two years ago I read in the *New York Tribune* how to can peaches in cold water. I thought it would be a very nice way if the peaches would keep good; but being a little fearful, I only filled one can that way, and did it exactly as directed. My peaches did not go up; they looked all right; but when I opened the can, the juice or water was as thick as jelly and tasted very bad. The rest of my fruit kept good, and I think it a better way to cook the fruit just enough; put in the cans while hot, and seal. We think fruit of all kinds retains its natural flavor better without sugar till ready for the table.

A Love Adventure.

A Southern paper relates this characteristic story:

A colored man living in Macon street having long admired a colored widow living on the next block above, being afraid to come out boldly and declare his passion, went to a white man of his acquaintance the other day and asked him to write the lady a letter asking her hand in marriage. The friend wrote, telling the woman in a few brief lines that the size of her feet was the talk of the neighborhood, and asking her if she could not pare them down a little. The name of the colored man was signed, and he was to call on her Saturday night for an answer. Yesterday the writer of the letter met the negro limping along the street and asked what the widow said. The man showed him a blood-shot eye and scratched nose, lame leg and a spot on the scalp where a handful of wood had been violently jerked out, and answer in broken tones: "She didn't say nuffin', an' I didn't stay too'n a minit."

This man with that short-sightedness should start immediately for Pittsburgh, where a 14-year-old boy has perpetrated nine "anzas beginning as follows:

Oh, those cruel Spaniards are at their bloody work again! They have risen up Young America and put a head on Spain.

—*Cleveland Leader.*

About Fried Food.

We copy the following from a foreign paper because we believe there is a good deal of sense in it:

One of the first scraps I light upon is one picked up somewhere, evidently from an American newspaper, from the dishes mentioned, about the health of farmers. What singular combinations of edibles they make use of in the United States! This jotting, after assuring us that farmers out in the west are not so long lived as other classes, although under proper dietary conditions they ought to be more so, proceeds to say: Fried fish several times a day, with several fried things at each of the three meals, is one of their common dietary abominations; dried beef, old cheese and pickles, are among the common relishes, while lard and sausages make their richer dainties infections and caustic. We have seen on a farmer's table fried pork, fried eggs, fried potatoes and fried griddle cakes for breakfast; fried ham, fried herring and fried parsnips for dinner, and fried doughnuts and fried sausages for supper—all the frying done in lard.

No class is so troubled with canker, erysipelas, tumors, cancers and humors, as farmers; and the excessive use of pork, lard, fine flour, rich cakes and greasy pastry, is enough to account for it. In dietary habits our farmers are sadly misled by receipts for making "rich and palatable" puddings, pies, cakes and other complicated dishes, which no stomach ever carried inside of a human body could long tolerate without death or dyspepsia. The essential need of our farmers is plain, wholesome food, properly cooked. This would give them much more available power for work, relieve them of many of the distresses and expenses of sickness, add many years to their life, and render old age "green" and normal instead of dry and decrepid, as it is in most cases under existing habits.

The Difficulties of Watermelon Culture.

"Can the watermelon be successfully cultivated on sandy soil, in a rural town of 4,000 inhabitants, and a theological institute located near by containing 120 students for the Ministry?" This question excited considerable comment and loud discussion among the agriculturists present at the meeting of "The Hayseeds" in Cleveland, and nearly an hour and a half was spent in discussing the same. An old green grocer who had raised early and late vegetables for the market for twenty years of his earlier life, said he could raise melons on top of a barn, or on a billiard table even, let him pick the locality and his neighbors, that was not so much the soil, nor season, that the melon depended upon for its perfection, as it was the peculiarities of the inhabitants of the country round about. Where there was an excess of colored citizens it was almost as impossible to raise a paying crop of melons as it was to keep spring chickens, unless roosted at night in a Herring's safe. Then, again, colleges have a bad effect upon the melon crop, and even a Minister's family of seven boys has been known to blight a large patch in a single night. In sections of country where these drawbacks exist the speaker had learned that the only method to insure a full crop of melons was to station a man by each melon from the time it was the size of a hen's egg until it ripened. This was expensive, but the result was always gratifying. As the fruit grew in size and approached ripeness, the speaker had sometimes found it necessary to station two guards over each large melon, and even then, in communities where a two great fondness for these lascivious products existed he had known of the insides of a large watermelon being stolen and devoured when two men with clubs were seated on a shelf, or ring, engaged in friendly converse.—*Dubuque News.*

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