

THE CORN.

A song of the corn, the sturdy corn, which brightens this land of ours! Its tender green, in the early spring, is fairer than blossoming flowers! Its amber silk, with its glossy sheen, is fit for a fairy's loom. And dearer its dimpled, golden ears than the rose or lily's bloom. For they bear the promise of happy hours to the man who tills for bread. When he need not fear that his little ones must go to their sleep unfed.

There are lovely flowers in this land of ours, wherever the foot may fall. The tongue and the ear alike would tire should I try to tell them all. From the arbutus on Atlantic shores to the golden poppy's gleams. As bright as the sunset which lies at its roots by California streams. But never a flower such gifts has gained from the sun and dew of morn. Or stands more fair in the summer air than the blessed, golden corn!

—NINETTE M. LOWATER.

PEARLS FOUND IN SCOTIA.

One From Aberdeenshire Said to Form One of the Queen's Jewels.

One is so much accustomed to associate pearls with the eastern and gold with the southwestern countries of the world that the discovery of pearls in Scotland and gold in Wales seems somewhat opposed to the order of things. That gold exists in Wales is of course quite a recent discovery, and the small and unprofitable quantities found have now resulted in the abandonment of the mining operations commenced by Richard Morgan.

But the pearls of Scotland have quite a different history. For centuries pearls have been found in the river Ythan, in Aberdeenshire, and only last year an Aberdeen man made some notable hauls, which he disposed of to jewelers of the northern towns. It was recently stated in a London paper that a pearl taken from the river Ythan is believed to form one of the queen's crown jewels. It is to be hoped that the belief is well founded, for in that case it may be reasonably claimed that the precious stone in question is the only one contributed by the British islands, a thought calculated to gratify our national pride, for Scotland might be worse represented than by a pearl in the national regalia.

A story is told of an Aberdeenshire farmer who found a very large and perfect pearl in the shell of a mussel taken from the Ythan. Happening to visit London some time afterward, he displayed his treasure to a west end jeweler, who, struck with the size and beauty of the gem, asked the price. The farmer demanded what possibly he regarded as a big price—viz., £100. Now, this was in the days when Scotland had her own coinage, and a pound (Scots) was equivalent to 1s. 6d., so that the £100 he asked would only have represented £8 6s. 8d. English money.

His surprise and delight may be imagined, therefore, when he received for his pearl £100. It is doubtful, however, whether the English jeweler would have shared these feelings had he known the exact meaning of the "hunner pun," demanded by the owner of the pearl. However, he had no occasion to complain, for he is said to have sold the gem subsequently at a large profit.—*Scotsman*.

A Pauper Who Owned Johannesburg.

Few people are aware of the fact that the site of Johannesburg and a large tract of the surrounding land were once bought for £350. But such was the case, and the purchaser now lies a confirmed invalid in the workhouse infirmary at Guildford. The old man seems to have had a most remarkable career, having been in the service of the old East India company, fought in the Crimea, being seriously wounded at the siege of Sevastopol, and afterward passed through the Indian mutiny. He then went to South Africa, where he fought against the Zulus and the Boers. Before the Transvaal was made over to the Boers he purchased for £350 some 15,000 acres of land near the source of the Crocodile, better known as the Limpopo, where he made up his mind ultimately to settle. But war broke out, and he took up arms against the Boers and formed one of the party which held Pretoria. In 1880, when the republic was declared, he refused to accept service under President Kruger, the result being that his land, now estimated to be worth many millions sterling, was forfeited.—*Westminster Gazette*.

Appreciation.

An anecdote, illustrating the urbanity of Dr. Max Nordau's character, as well as his keen sense of humor, is told in connection with a story of I. Zangwill.

Dr. Nordau had never met Zangwill, but was a great admirer of "The Children of the Ghetto" and its author's literary causeries. One day a friend, knowing this, came to him and said:

"Mr. Zangwill has been writing about you in 'The Pall Mall'."

"Indeed," said Dr. Nordau, with an air of great interest.

"He gives a perfect appreciation of you," the friend continued.

"Do tell me what he said," said the author, relaxing into an attitude of pleasurable anticipation.

"He says you're an idiot."

The funny part of the story is that during a recent visit to England Dr. Nordau met Mr. Zangwill and told him the incident.

Next to Ice.

Mr. Hankerson—John, did you ice two dozen bottles of champagne, as I told you?

The Butler—No, sorr. The icebox wasn't big enough for more than 20.

Hankerson—What have you done with the rest?

The Butler—I set the cook and maids a-fannin' 'em, sorr.—*Illustrated Bits*.

It is my opinion that a man's soul may be buried and perish under a dung heap or in a furrow of the field just as well as under a pile of money.—*Hawthorne*.

The manufacturers of Brooklyn are annually valued at \$228,000,000.

FROM GOAT TO BOAT.

Even the festive goat in his vernal season has his field sport on the common with a tin can or the butt of a log. From the sport of the goat in the spring to the varied sports of the early and late summer, what a world of amusement and what a scene of muscular activity. In all these, ever so helpful, from the bat in the ball field to the oar of the boat and the clatter of the turf, there comes in a large amount of penalty in the shape of serious sprains and troublesome bruises, but no man is a good athlete, nor does he develop well from such exercises without his full share of both. It is a good thing, therefore, that there is provided something which, if always kept ready, is always ready to cure promptly these sudden and painful mishaps. St. Jacobs Oil, without question, passes among all sportsmen as the thing to have, par excellence, in all kinds of sports. It has gained its best reputation from its best cures of this nature, and the man who would enjoy freely the summer sports would be almost foolish not to keep a bottle about him.

Phil A. Del—And was your friend's death unexpected. Arizona Pete—No indeed. He had been a horse thief for years.

Gloom to Sunshine

Of ill health, despondency and despair, gives way to the sunshine of hope, happiness and health, upon taking Hood's Sarsaparilla, because it gives renewed life and vitality to the blood, and through that imparts strength, vigor to the whole body. Read this letter:

"Hood's Sarsaparilla helped me wonderfully, changed sickness to health, gloom to sunshine. No pen can describe what I suffered. I was deathly sick, had sick headaches every few days and those terrible tired, despondent feelings, with heart troubles so that I could not go up and

Hood's Sarsaparilla

down stairs without clasping my hand over my heart and resting. In fact, it would almost take my breath away. I suffered so I did not care to live, yet I had much to live for. There is no pleasure in life if deprived of health, for life becomes a burden. Hood's Sarsaparilla does far more than advertised. After taking one bottle, it is sufficient to recommend itself."

Mrs. J. E. SMITH, Beloit, Iowa.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the One True Blood Purifier. All druggists, \$1. Prepared only by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

Hood's Pills cure all liver ills, biliousness, constipation, etc. Price 25c. Sold by all druggists.

SURE CURE FOR PILES. Dr. B. C. SAN-KO'S PILE REMEDY. Superbly effective in all cases. Price 50c. Sold by all druggists.

THE GERM THEORY.

What the world owes to Louis Pasteur the world's great vocabulary is incompetent to express. Through his researches, and those of the students who have come after him, the light has been turned upon what has hitherto been total darkness. Doubt, experiments and uncertainty have given way to precision and accuracy in diagnosis. As the farmer knows that the chinch bug is the cause of his withered crops, so the physician knows that the bacillus of certain diseases brings about certain symptoms. The microscope is the physician's reliance. A few drops of blood, a bit of tissue, a little perspiration brought under the eye of this magic assistant will tell him at once the cause and progress of the disease. And it is not alone the physician who benefits by this knowledge. The farmer, the vineyardist, the dairyman, the stock raiser, the cultivator of the silk worm and the enthusiast on bees are alike indebted to the discoverer of the germ origin of disease for inevitable aids in their business. A necessity of the near future is an improvement in microscopes and their cheapening, so that knowledge of germs may become more widespread. Every township should have its bacteriologist and its microscopic equipment. There is no study more interesting, and none that is so important to humanity.—*New York Ledger*.

She Saw a Scowl Then.

Minnie—I never noticed before that this mirror had a wrinkle in it.

Mamie—I thought you were able to see wrinkles in any mirror you looked into.—*Indianapolis Journal*.

Office of BLACKWELL'S DURHAM TOBACCO COMPANY, DURHAM, N. C.

Dear Sir:

You are entitled to receive FREE from your wholesale dealer, WHITE STAR SOAP with all the

Blackwell's Genuine Durham Smoking Tobacco you buy. One bar of soap free with each pound, whether 16 oz., 8 oz., 4 oz., or 2 oz., packages.

We have notified every wholesale dealer in the United States that we will supply them with soap to give you FREE. Order a good supply of GENUINE DURHAM at once, and insist on getting your soap. One bar of Soap FREE with each pound you buy. Soap is offered for a limited time, so order to-day. Yours very truly,

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