THE LOST STAR.

A little star, a single spack, Bad last fits was among the clouds, And sweeping, shad its fitsy light Adown the mist of rainy skrouds. Besaw no pathway in the dark; Its turned to fit, be turned to right, Along the highway of the night.

A gentle wind, from off the sea A genite which remains the sea Came whispering up the distingt value And toid a story to the rain. The vapors spread their humid sails And promity invested to the ion. Gain little star, with might and make Be dons his glittering host again. Same: Abbett in Ladies' Home Journal.

A STRANGE GUIDE.

I once had as a guide a strange, unquiet and talkative man, so dissimilar from all others of his condition that the first half of the way I was seeking within myself some plansible pretext for turning back, and the second half I was blaming myself for having thought ill of him.

The manner in which he presented himself to me, his behavior, his look, his dress, his step, his accent, and even his herenlean strength, everything in him was a reason

strength, everything in him was a reason for grave suspicion. I was at an tim in Val Tournanche, and I wished to go to Fiery, where several friends were to meet me; having a rather heavy value I needed a mule to carry h, and also a guide to show the way. But not a single mule was to be had, and he only quide 1 could find, a swiss, did not wish to carry any burden; so I was in danger of missing my appointment. The day before I was to depart, as I was standing about durk as the door of the inn standing about dusk as the door of the inr Mandaug about cust as the door of the inn-looking anxiously to see whether any guides or porters had returned from the mountains, the landlord came to tell me that he had found my man. "Have you sent for him?" "He is here." "When did he come?" "Just you?"

"Just now

"Just now." "Does he come from the valler?" "No.sir: from the mountain." "Impossible. I should have seen him ming. I have been watching for an

This man does not follow the same path

as the others. Why

But my host would not explain himself arther, he only called with a loud voico-Sandum.

He was a fine man, very tall, muscular, The was a fine man, very tail, musemar, about thirty years old, covered with sweat, the winkless of his face giving an expres-sion of hard and energetic will. He had a large, straight nose, large month, a forest of black curly hair, a learned two days old.

I wanted him to come in, in order to get away from the chilly breeze: but he shrugged his shoulders and said to me

Doyou wish to go to Fiery, and go up fest Mount Cervino" "I have given up Mount Cervino, unless this evoling T flod a muleteer who will carry my value." "I will carry it," "Then I should need a guide for Mount

Cervine." "1 will come."

Would you be willing to carry my va-

lise up there 'How much does it weigh?"

"How much does it weigh?" "About fifty pounds." "All right; give me fifteen france." The price was more than moderate, but the felow seemed to me a swaggerer. I offered to show him the value: but he langued at the idea. I did not like him. "Are you a regular guide?" "Certainly." "Bays was a hormer?"

"Certainly, "Bave you a license?" "No. I have a certificate of honorable discharge. I was in the artillery." "What is your name?" "Do you want to know all this for fifteen

Do you what to know an this for fifteen francs?" and he begin to haugh averasti-cally. "Very well, I will tell you my name gratis. My name is Giacomo Balmes. Does that please you?" Seeing that his smile did not please me he immediately changed his expression and added anniharizative.

Seeing that his smile did not please me he immediately changed his expression and added emphatically: "Fifteen france would help me, you know, tomorrow night you will be able to tell me if I have earoned them," and after a searching ginnce, "The landlord dells me that you have known him quite awhile. And so saying he went into the kitchen. Next day we set out at 3 o'clock in the morning. My value stuffed full seemed to him a mere straw. He carried it bound on his back with cords, like a knapsack. He walked nimbly, whisting a quickstep. His gait had something peuliar about it. I did not know what it was but later on I understood. His step made no sound, he seemed to glide along. Hardly had we started when he began to tak to me, but either from skeptness this kompany, we nel did not answer thin. He tried two or three subjects, then gave up and began to whistle, hastening his

up and began to whistle, hastening his step. Instead of going by the regular way be begun presently to follow around the mountain on its lower slope until he found a kild of path cut in the living rock, rough a black the step of the s and bare as a slab. He entered it without saying anothing, and climbed like a squir-rel.

Certainly by that way the ascent was plensanter and quicker. When we help ourselves with hands and kness, and every step must be studied and kness, and every step must be studied and measured, the mind does not notice the fations

Integree. At first in the steepest places Jacques tarmed around and offered me his hand, but leting fresh I refused his ald, proud to motor the rough mountain. Then the w began to walk by himself, abandonw began to walk by himself, atomion-but I felt somewhat indignant at sec-him so high on the rocks. Sometimes, at on my steps. I forgot him, and when being alone,

Name:

distance and still carcless of me. At first 1 had thought that in certain At first 1 had thought that in certain parts the path would become impractica-ble and that it would be necessary to get sut of R and resume it further off but gradually as 1 proceeded 1 previewed that the passage continued, and lead it was always becoming more pract. Me. Forded to him to stop, but my voice of not reach, him. If it had not been to my value, 1 would have returned immediately. At last 1 saw him sitting on the ground waiting for use. I came up to him in bad humor.

lumor The smooth surface of the rock had be

come slippery in consequence of a stream of water, and he had stapped to after m his hand.

his hand. "Why do yon walk at such a distance from me" I wish to have yon near me." "I thought yon wished to be alone: I did not want to distart you." "Why do yon leave the path so oftent What makes yon go out of your way so?" "I am of the race of hounds. I like to go smelling about the ground." "Well, now, don't leave me any more." "As you please." I tried to start a conversation, but this time it was he that would not bite. The sun had risen, he had taken off his jacket and was carrying it on his arm.

jacket and was carrying it on his arm. From his leather belt hung a vine dresser's hatchet, an instrument not usually wors

by guides. "Why do you energ the hatchet?" "I always energy it." "What for !!"

'Oh, because' He looked at me fixedly and added:

The investment at me fixedly and added: "I have also a pixtol-look!" He took out from his pocket a short, double harreled pixtol and gave it to me, warning me that it was loaded. I was tompted to keep it.

I was tempted to keep it. In the Alps no one goes about armed plotols are implements of fuxury, intended to be fired on joyful occas

But I thought that if he had intended to make had use of it he would not have shown it to me. I returned it to him without speaking

After walking a quarter of an hour he said: "Excuse me. 1 will return immediately You go on. 1 will rejoin you in two min

utes.¹⁷ And down the side of the mountain be

vent. Hardly had he left the path when I went. Hardly bud he left the path when I followed tim. I saw him run to a heap of great recks about ten yards off. He bent down, moved two or three great stones, searching on the ground and then turned around. When he saw that I stood watch-ing him he frowned, his eyes glittered, but he smoothed his forehead in a moment. "I want to get this piece of bread and cheese that I hid here yesterday. I often go around the mountains and place food here and there." He looked in my eyes and said: "Don't you helive it?"

Don't you believe it?

"Don't you believe it?" "Don't you believe it?" "No." I did not believe it? him take his bread out of his pocket, and his confusion at being surprised must have had a reason. I began to feel greatly di-quieted. He perceived it and immediately became joyial and talkative. He knew me, he said; he asked the landierd about making money by the bagfal. He knew city life and always read the papers. He knew also that I had written operas for the header, another gold mine. If I had been willing to pay attention to him he would have told me stories about regues.

rogues

min we wonth nave tour me stories about rights. "Ab, you gentlemen come here just for the fun of knowing what fatigue is! If you only knew what is was and how much a piece of bread costs! And there are peo-ple that would like to steal if from us! They have here judges, jury, sheriffs and detectives, all the bad things of the earth, and if they wish to come, let them come, they will find me?" Then he toured the pistol in his pocket. He was elequent and excitable. Ike a man believing himself to be followed up by a constant persecution. He spoke by jerks, and jurped from one subject to another,

and jumped from one subject to another, as if forced by a tumultuous current of as if forced by a turnultuous current of ideas, and afraid of losing them by talking, the certainly had some bitter energy that mysteriously influenced all the acts of his life. All his talk had reference to him; he buret forth in vague threats, attered laugh-ing with set teels, teeth white and firm, canable of breaking a crown piecs. Never-theless, in the depths of his eyes appeared a timid and humble uncesiness contrast-ing with his violent words, which finally reasourced me completely. He understood this also, and when I offered him a cigar sold:

said: *You have thought evil of me. I am not a rogue. Come here and you will under-stand everything." We had lately had our first snowstorm, the path had broad-ened and not a blade of grass was to be

seen. The whole mountain was a mass of gi-gantic rocks, half buried in the saud, soft and moist from the recently melted snow and the draining of the ice. He led me by the hand in the labyringh until we arrived at a kind of grotto formed

the second secon

To prod bit a traffic so natural seems to him an intolerable imposition, against which it is not only havful but meritorions to rebel. Hence a tiolent battred against the custom house officers, and the firm in-tention to show them in cold blood if nec-

esary. The officers know this, and often when The officers know this, and often when they need a struggler in a rough and desert place, if they are not numerous enough to overpower him, and if they do not think the merchandhise has a special value, they pretent not to see him and pass on looking the other way. If is easy to shoot, and at those heights a hole new solid background they distance

It is easy to shoot, and at those beights a body may cassly be earried a long distance without detection. The officer does not re-turn, suspicions fall on the true murderer, patrols start out searching for the dead man through the defiles of the mountains, but no our obtains sure preads. My guide had once found himself un-armed within range of two officers, and he had exceed by a model.

had escaped by a miracle. At another time, unseen, he had rolled down from the time inseen, he had rolled down from the cill a quantity of stones on the heads of two officers who were climbing up the slope, and one of them, while etaleavoring to escape, lost his masket. "That was the musket I showed you."

"But what a horrible life! and the profit is

little, you know." He relates to me his nocturnal trips in winter alone over the deadly glaciers, loaded like a nuile. Fogs beset him and

family, a circumstance, in view of the character the place already bore, not at all difficult, I hitched up another horse, and in company with my father and younger brother, returned to the scene of my late horrible experiences, and the investigations we there made in refer-ence to the noises and other phenomena will I am afraid, only disgust those imaginative minds which are always on the alert for startling denouements

The gnawing sounds we found had been produced by the chafing of the wagon hub against a loose board in the haymow, and every time the animals reached forward after their fodder the movement carried a rosty, guttural, scraping of the turntable, which simulated the sound, "Joe, Joe," with suffi-cient nearness to mislead a cooler head

than mine was just at that time. The demoniac langhter which had so horrified me was of equally absurd origin, being simply the ratiling and clat-tering of a thin, loose clapboard high up in the gable whenever a gust stronger than usual struck it. For the light 1 could find no explanation other than the only possible fact that it was simply a phosphorescent exhalation from a little swamp near by, one of those luminous methylic vapors, variously known as will-o'-the-wisp. Jack-o'-hantern, ignis fatoma ate

The place was infested with rats, and it was doubtless their scurrying back and forth over the floor which sounded so much like steadthy footsteps - either that or the falling of the large rain-drops which found their way through the leaky roof.

the leaky roof. There too lay the reptile which had so nearly strangled me—a long, soft strip of the inner bark of one of the cedar rafters, which, saturated by the rain, had fallen across the back of my neck as I stooped forward, and you can readi-ly appreciate the sensation such a thing, unexpected and in total darkness, would

be apt to produce. While we were making these discover is and remarking how a little daylight and good common sense will knock the prope from under the best ghost story ever gotten up, we were all startled by a sudden rat-tat-tat on the barn door.

My father hastily unfastened it, ex-pecting of course, to meet one of the neighbors, or possibly a strolling tramp, and I noticed a queer expression come over his face. There was not a soul the

He had hardly closed the door, how ever, when the sharp rat-tat-tat was re-peated, this time considerably prolonged. Again the door was opened quickly.

and again not a soul was in sight. There was a little door in the rear of the barn, and, leaving my father and brother looking at one another in a s what funny manner, I quietly unfatened this, and as the knocking had re-commenced, slipped quickly around out side to the front of the harn, only to see a large redheaded woodpecker diligent-ly tapping away on the door in search of his breakfast.

We got away from that place with all the expedition possible, and ever since my skepticism in reference to the vivid and ornate stories of a similar character, which we so frequently hear, is pretty radically confirmed by the simple ro-membrance of my own blood curdling experience that night-with the ghosts -J. R. Parke in Buffalo News.

How an Island Grew

Miniper in tages and tobacci. He was a singglet.
Coming from Switzerland he scattered is merchandise in many hiding places, in order that it might not all fall into the hand due up the package he replaced it again in the cavity and tarned to maxing but alice nonths previous reported its area to the secret he no longer feared me.
This is the safest storehouse, " and he "The emstor house officers musket.
The enstor house officers never come up as far as here. They know that at such is height there are no shepfords to act as witnesses. Here I an muster, and this is moral among the motion of the state. He knows "the oution of the state. He knows "the longer out the state of the knows "the light store the view he highest place. In 1860 it was "the longer the light the withe state of the state out the state of the state out the knows "the longer the light the state out the state of the knows "the longer the light the state out the state of the state. He knows "the longer the light the state out the



LIGHT BOAD MACHINE

Regardless of the compulsion o

recease the facility for marketing p recease the facility for marketing p uce, save in horse flesh and wagon pairs, attract money-spending song visitors and enhance the value of visitors and enhance the value of erty. The uncedam and simila-terns are unquestionably the be-housed mathematical fact. Its

though rather costly at first. Ba

fortunately in many country town usual method of roadinaking consist

useni method of roadinaking consist plowing up the loam, clay, gravel turf and scraphing it up toward the ter of the highway, with more or bungling attempts at smoothing. Sy-cial machines for this purpose have been decided, some of them heavy and cumbrous, weighing from 2.009 to 3.000 pounds, needing from four to six horses or oxen to operate them, and so expan-sive as not 0, be turned accumel assile

or oxen to operate them, and so expan-sive as not to be turned arcound easily on a narrow road. They are costly in more ways than one, not merely to the town or district which buys them, but to the owners of horses which arc hitched thereto in service. Hence the

road machine invented by a Stockport (Columbia county, N. Y.) man and rep-

(Columbia county, N. Y.) man and rep-reserted herewith, may, perhaps, fill a iong-felt want in many parts of the country. Only a single sample has been built, but it has been practically tested. Its weight is only 400 pounds. It needs only a pair of horses, can turn easily anywhere, and the inventor claims that it does better work and does it more easily than anything else of the kind.

As will be seen from the accompany-

ing picture, the machine is mainly sup-ported by one wheel, the axle of which is secured to a section of anglo iron e

that serves as a continuation of the

that serves as a continuation of the pole and resembles a plow beam. The wheel is flanged, in order to make it run exactly in the line of draft. A tendency to shift to one side results from the angle at which the semper-blade is set with the beam. A stay-rol, shown herewith, maintains this angle; and it may be used, in cooperation with the beam to sustain a driver's set. The

the beam, to sustain a driver's seat. The

scraper-blade is six feet long, and tapers from nine to twelve inches in

width. Bolted on to the lower half of

whith. Boiled on to the lower half of lis front sorface are two cast-iron plates, or shears. The rear lever is used to change the level of the surface of the road, grading up from side toward center, and also to lift the blade en-

tirely free from the ground when going

to and fro or turning around. A small wheel, not visible in our illustration, is

placed under the "nigh" or forward end of the blade, to carry that part of the upparatus when not in use, and

also at times, especially in soft soil, to regulate the depth to which the blade

cuts. One of the advantages of having the blade set at an angle is that, when

used as a rut scraper, it sweeps the loosened earth sidewise to some extent, and thus fills up the ruts instead of merely crowding the dirt forward.

Besides the lightness, simplicity of construction and efficiency which are said to be among the merits of this ap-

paratus, its choapness is also to be con-sidered. It can be made so as to yield a large profit and retail for \$25, which

is from a quarter to one-tenth the price of machines now in use.-N, Y. Trib-

The Present Is a Grand Opportunity for Road Improvement.

Officials of the National League for lood Roads have issued the following

circular from the world's fair office in which they call attention to the present opportunity for improving the roads:

opportunity for improving the roads: -The curnest attention of members of the league, its coworkiers and all committees, and persons seeking relief for the unseptoyed is respectfully called to the present favorable con-dition for making road. Improvement, both for its own sake and as a means of griting employ-ment and of silmulating business in general. Capital as well as labor is dile, and bankers are expecting an era of theap money, bringing a quick demand for such investments as tow and county houds. Many county and in Loado in various states are already at the to begin road insign and to issue

Learns in various entries are airendy used to begin read making and to issue hierefore, others only require the saw local election. More enough could be put to w bodies without waiting for low sentilite relate to the labor nor rially case the hard times while the roads would be it cost and of fatterest char-laws hat denoted the

th

cost and of interest, have not adopted housen their legissi the same advantage lifted out of its te-certain to promy To enforce i tention of th upon the + power is who a+

WORK FOR THE IDLE.

une

of the kind.

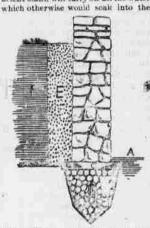
nity demands good roads,

York Man's Substitute fo Heavy "Horse Killers,"

They

DRAINING THE CELLAR. How to Prevent It from Becoming Wet or Even Damp.

A wet cellar is one of the worst objects which an owner can place on his farm. It can be of little value in any 3112 case, and will cause disease among the case, and will cause disease among the animals. It is therefore worth much labor to make it dry. This may be done by cutting a ditch around the whole building, and deeper than the bottom of the cellar. This ditch must extent from the surface of the ground down below the bottom of the cellar. It must be made by removing all the earth from the outside of the cellar wall, so as to make it a foot or more in width. This ditch, being a foot or more below the cellar, and having sufat slant, will carry off all the water



cellar. The accompanying figure represents a cross-section of the wall and ditch. F being the earth outside the whole building, and E the ditch filled from bottom to top with broken stone or coarse gravel. It is in contact with the cellar wall. Below the whole is a ditch filled with broken stone and one or two pipetiles for carrying off all the water which runs down from the ditch This bottom ditch must be wide E. E. This bottom ditch must be wide and deep enough to receive and convey away all the water which otherwise would enter the cellar. C is a heavy fingstone on which the wall rests. The owner will of course know the proper where with the outrie know the proper sint to give the diluci. The dich E remaining open while digging, must be braced with heavy blocks if necessary, to prevent the main wall from failing till filled. -Country Gentleman.

DAIRY SUGGESTIONS.

THE prospect for a good price for dairy products this winter seems good. Loose methods or no method at all and scrub cows make a big leak on the farm.

THE cow that has nothing but burnt up pasture to feed on ought not be expected to yield a profit. MARI good butter and send it to a

ity market. There is no money in elling butter at the country store. Does grain raising pay you? Well, o. Then why not try dairying? That has been found to pay when the price of grain was much better than now.

MILE is now in disfavor with some

of the doctors for feeding infants. They say that disense so often comes from sickly cows that it is dangerous. Any-

body who tries can get healthy mills. This best cow bred is none too good for the farmer who will take good care

duces most of the outer and the farm dairy should be fully caulpped with all modern improvements, including the best cow. But the cow is only a machine. She must have good care like

machine. She must have good care the any other machine, or she will wear out before she should, and not be able to do the work that she does do as effi-ciently as she might.—Farmers' Voice.

Novel Device for a Sile

My plan for keeping corn has been a access for the past four years. I have bay in my barn 25x35 feet with 18-

foot posts. I cut out of the center of the hay of solid hay a hole of 15 feet, which will leave 7 feet of solid hay on

hay taken from the hole can be put on the top and around the sides, or, if a press is handy, may be baled. I then

set boards all around the inslite as close as I can get them together and nail them to a board put in crosswise. I am

them to a board put in crosswise. I am then ready to fill. I put my corn in whole as I think it is just as good and a saving in the baying of machinery for cutting. I use a horse fork for un-loading and have a man in the hole to lay it straight, preferring to have it laid lock fashion. Otherwise I proceed as others do with regulariy built sile The corn invariably comes out all and affords a chean endie.

and affords a cheap ensile. Spencer, in Farm and Home

Its Prope Mamma-Here yot ing but meat, and think bread anyhow? Bobbleupertini-

he sides. I also leave about

hay in the bottom of the hole.

f her. luces most of the

It is the farm dairy that pro-most of the butter and the farm