

ine, weighing 15 tons, and capable of drawing 50, jumped upon the pavement, and ran with great force against Mr. Gregory's shop. There were two men in charge of the agricultural train at the time, and both were at their post on the engine, and when it ran into the shop they had barely time to save themselves from being crushed to death by jumping off the machine. Fortunately the water in the boiler was rather low, and the steam not powerful at the time or the immense mass would either have fallen through the thin boarding of the shop flooring into the cellar, or, by going three or four inches further, knocked down an iron pillar which supported the front of the house. The occurrence attracted an immense crowd of persons, doubtless increased by the novelty of its character. The ponderous machine once fixed in the doorway of the shop, the difficulty was to get it back again into the street, and nearly three hours elapsed before this was accomplished. It was found necessary to obtain the assistance of six of the corporation horses to effect its removal, and at eleven o'clock the train was again on its way to Stratford.

THE CRAB THAT FEEDS ON COCONUTS.—What a wonderful world it is in which you live, and how very numerous are the proofs of the wisdom and goodness of God in taking care of all his creatures! You may be quite sure that he will take care of you, feeling that there are none so mean and so little but what he makes provision for their wants. There is a curious example of the instinct which the Almighty gives to some of the creatures he has formed that I have a mind to relate. You have all seen crabs; but there is an odd kind of crab that you have not seen, which lives in the East Indies, and instead of finding its food in the sea some say that it climbs up, like a monkey, into a cocoa-tree, that it may dine and sup; at any rate it feeds on the fruit which falls from the branches. But how does it get at the kernel? for your own little teeth tell you that the shell of the coconut is anything but soft. The Creator has given its forelegs a pair of strong pinchers; with these it tears away the husk, piece by piece, from that end where the eyeholes are situated. It then hammers away till it has broken the shell open; then it turns it round, and by working into it by its hind claws, which are as hind legs, it gets out the sweet and juicy inside of the coconut. It goes every night to the sea to refresh itself, as one drinks a glass of water at supper time, before going to bed. This is a very strange example of what we call instinct, which means something in beasts, and birds, and fishes, and reptiles which is to them instead of the reason and conscience which God has given you. What an interesting illustration this little fact is of what the Bible says: "The eyes of all wait upon thee, and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing."

THE INDEPENDENT FARMER.

Let sailors sing of the windy deep,
Let soldiers praise their armour,
But in my heart this toast I'll keep,
The Independent Farmer.
When first the rose in robe of green
Unfolds its crimson lining,
And round his cottage porch is seen
The honeysuckle twining;
When banks of bloom their sweetness yield,
To bees that gather honey,
He drives his team across the field,
Where skies are soft and balmy.

The blackbird clucks behind the plough,
The quail pipes loud and clearly,
Yon orchard hides behind its bough
The home he loves so dearly;
The grey old barn, whose doors unfold
His ample store in measure,
More rich than heaps of hoarded gold,
A precious, blessed treasure;
But yonder in the porch there stands
His wife, the lovely charmer,
The sweetest rose on all his lands—
The Independent Farmer.

To him the Spring comes dancingly,
To him the Summer blushes,
The Autumn smiles with mellow ray;
He sleeps, old Winter bushes.
He cares not how the world may move,
No doubts nor fears confound him;
His little flocks are linked in love,
And household angels round him;
He trusts in God and loves his wife,
Nor griefs nor ills may harm her;
He's nature's nobleman in life—
The Independent Farmer.

ABSORPTIVE POWER OF THE SOIL.—No contribution of science to the practice of agriculture is more calculated to arrest the attention of the farmer than the various observations which have been made within the last few years regarding the remarkable power the soil possesses of absorbing and retaining some of the indispensable elements of the plant. They are the more worthy of attention, inasmuch as the facts which have been determined are to a certain extent, opposed to some of the more common prevalent opinions. They lend but little countenance to the idea that the manure, when committed to the soil, lies there in a precarious condition, liable at any moment to be deprived of its soluble constituents by the rain, and of its volatile matters by the heat of the sun's rays. But, on the contrary, they tend to show that there is a conservative influence at work in the soil which imprisons these substances within and stores and preserves them for the future uses of the plant; and, what is more, it exercises this influence more powerfully on these substances which are most sparingly distributed through the soil, holding with the firm grasp of a man.