From Sartain's Magazine

HOME HAPPINESS.

"Let not happy children be disturbed and grieved."
[Frederick William III. of Prussia.

"The influence of home happiness on the young, is a protection against sin in future life."

Make bright the hearth where children throng
In innocence and glee,
With smiles of love,—the carolled song,—
The spirit's harmony,—

The healthful sports, the cheeks that flush,
The mother's fond caress,—
Nor let the stateliest father blush
His merry boy to bless.

For, far adown the vale of life,
When he his lot shall bear,
That hallowed gleam shall cheer the strife
And gild the clouds of care.

If midnight storms and breakers roar,
Its treasured spell shall be
A lighthouse 'mid the reeking shore,
The star of memory;—

Shall warn him, when the siren's wiles
His faltering feet entice,
Make bright the hearth where *childhood* smiles
To keep the *man* from vice.

FRANCE.

With regard to the geography of France, we find the remains of Grecian colonies, even at the present day. Vienna was the principal Roman colony, founded after the conquest of Gaul by Julius Cæsar, where, it is supposed, Pontius Pilate died, and a statue, supposed to have been erected to his memory, is even now shown; but which, of course, is not the fact. The lecturer glanced at the principal features of the conquest of this country, together with that of the Britons. When the Roman empire began to fall to pieces, they had to give up Gaul, which they prized so much; but not until after they had abandoned Britain and a portion of Germany. After this, the Germans commenced their old work of invading Gaul, and under Clovis, the chieftain of the Franks, obtained a footing in the country, and changed its name to its present designation. Paris, originally called Lutetia, or "mud town," but afterwards changed to the cognomen of a tribe that lived on the site, first obtained notice in the reign of Charlemagne. At that period France was not one eighth of the size that it is now; but it gradually increased in magnitude through the energy of the kings, who, commencing with Louis Capet and terminating with Louis XIV., conquered the ducal owners of the old feudal territories, so that now there is but a single count or duke who has any political influence, and even less property than other men. Dr. Baird reviewed the history of the French vassals, beginning with William of Normandy, the conqueror of England, in order to show what power they possessed, and to illustrate the causes of the dreadful battles which took place between the two countries, down to the time when Calais was given up by the English, in the reign of "Bloody Queen Mary," as she is generally called, who took it so much to heart that she said if they looked at it when she died, they would find the word "Calais engraved there." Uunder Louis XIV. who revoked the edict of Nantes, a great number of Protestants were obliged to fly the kingdom. The fatal and protracted wars which he caused, so weakened the energies of the nation that it laid the foundation of the French revolution which subsequently broke out in the reign of Louis XVI. The country became greatly involved in debt, and a change was looked for by many, especially when Lafayette arrived, from his participation in gaining the independence of our nation. Louis XVI, had some idea of liberty—he called together a convention, composed of nobles, clergy and the common people, to form a constitution; but the latter being in the majority, would not agree to having three houses. The constitution was put into force in the year 1790; but one great blunder had been committed, which never would have entered into the minds of anybody but Frenchmen, *namely*—*refusing* to allow those who had been connected with the formation of its machinery to legislate under it. Our country acted differently, and to this, in a great measure, may have owed the success which crowned our first years of nationality.

The lecturer next glanced at the dreadful scenes that took place in Paris between the years 1792 and 1796, under the dictatorship of Danton, Marat, Robespierre and others—the abolition of Christianity and the worshipping of a lewd woman under the impersonation of the "Goddess of Reason," and all those principle features of an era so well known, and which even traced make the blood curdle with horror. He then traced the early progress of the young engineer, who distinguished himself first at Toulon—General Bonaparte—to his attempt to subvert the National Assembly which might have cost him his life, as the men of that body were made of different stuff from that of the late one in Paris, and a hundred daggers were planted at his breast, but for his brother Lucien. He followed his footsteps, as an emperor and the conqueror of Europe, until after numerous defeats, his imprisonment in Elba, and subsequently in St. Helena, closed his eventful history. The next thing that attracted the attention of the audience was the vivid description of the revolution of 1830, given by the Rev. lecturer. One scene is worth remembering, viz. the origin of the barricades. During the conflict between the troops and the people, the young men belonging to *L'Ecole Polytechnique*, a military academy, numbering about five hundred, were dismissed on a charge of mutiny; but allowed to walk off with their side arms. They immediately started off for the scene of combat, and placing themselves at the head of different bodies, ordered them not to fight the troops in the manner they were doing, but erect barricades.—Their advice was taken, the woods that shaded the walks of the Boulevards were cut down, coaches, diligences and travelling carriages were brought into requisition, and victory crowned their efforts. He next came down to the unexpected revolution of 1848, and gave a very minute account of it. He then alluded to the career of Louis Napoleon—his unsuccessful attempt at Strasburg and Bologne, and his rise to his present position. As to his *coup d' etat*, he did not feel a single particle of sorrow for the men who composed the National Assembly. There were a great number of republicans in Paris; bnt they could not fight against Louis Napoleon while they hated the Assembly. The lecturer considered the President as a man who had thought to some purpose—who had taot, and knew when the proper time arrived to use it. He dwelt on this subject at some length, In relation to the rumors now prevalent concerning his future actions, he stated that the English people are saying all manner of things against the French, and the latter are retorting by bringing up their old feelings of animosity; and such a stupid set of editors are over the London press, that if matters go as they do, it will drive both countries into war. He believed, however, that Napoleon would never land in England with a single troop. No one can tell. He may involve Europe in a flame. He has the genius to do it. It may be that the Divine Being may allow matters to be carried out that will destroy that odious feeling of man-worship which has lingered around the memory of Napoleon.

INFLUENCE OF GUTTA PERCHA ON THE ELECTRIC SPARK.—On Friday a curious experiment demonstrating the protective quality of gutta percha against the escape of the electric fluid, was tried on the premises of the Gutta Percha Company. A series of copper wires, coated with gutta percha, each wire 1,000 feet long, and in the aggregate amounting to 275 miles—was immersed in the water of the Regent's Canal—all except the parts where each wire joined its fellow. The juncture was effected by mere twisted contact, a condition very unfavorable to the ready transmission of the fluid--and the voltaic battery employed in passing the discharge was on the old construction of Dr. Wollaston, consisting of 384 pairs of 4 inch square-plates of copper and zinc—put in action by dilute sulphuric acid. On completing the voltaic circuit, the explosion was instantaneous,—notwithstanding the wires had been immersed in water ever since the 18th of January. By employing a stronger battery, it is difficult to say what would be the limit of the electrical ignition. The usual plan of inflaming gunpowder, by means of voltaic electricity, consists in making the fluid traverse a slender platinum wire, which thereby is rendered incorrodescent—a plan which certainly would not have been effective at so long a distance as 275 miles with the battery employed. Propably it would have been impossible with any battery. The plan actually followed was discovered by Mr. Statham, the chemist, at the gutta percha works, and consists in passing the voltaic discharge through a small layer of the salt (probably sulphuret of copper) which forms when copper is brought into contact with sulphurised gutta percha.

THE EXACT TIME OF DAY.—The latest development of the electric telegraph system is at once useful and beautiful. It is a plan for distributing and cerrecting mean Greenwich time in London and over the country every day at noon. Every holiday maker knows the ball which surmounts the Royal Observatory, and has watched with interest its descent as the clock gave the first stroke of noon, thereby telling the sea going men in the river the exact state of the chronometers which were to become their guides over the pathless waters. Such a ball is to be raised on a pole on the telegraph-office near Charing-cross, and at noon each day is to drop by electric action simultaneously with that at Greenwich—both balls in fact liberated by the same hand—and, falling on a cushion at the base of the pole, is to communicate standard time along all the telegraphic wires of the country. At the same instant, the bells will ring out noon at the most distant places—Hull, Holyhead, Aberdeen, Harwich and Devonport. The great metropolitan clocks, such as the Horse Guards, the Exchange, the New Palace, are to be regulated on the same principal. It is said that all the railway companies have agreed to avail themselves of the means of obtaining an exact uniformity of time.—*Athenæum.*

THE NEW APPLICATION OF GAS.—On Tuesday evening, Mr. Defries gave his annual dinner at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street. Lincoln's Inn-fields, to rather more than 100 members of the gas-fitting trade. Together with two gas fires—one ignited by common coal gas, and the other, the most brilliant of the two, by hydrogen—were exhibited last evening, models of several stoves, and of a bath, by which, as the company were informed by Dr. Bachhoffner while that gentleman was proposing the health of the chairman, any one could be supplied in six minutes with 45 gallons of water heated to 95 or even 110 degrees entirely by gas and at a cost of three-half-pence. Dr. Bachhoffner further stated, that Dr. Defries and himself—for they were now in partnership—would in a few weeks be enabled to bring before the public a substantial and well organized company for furthering the application of gas to all purposes now answered by coal fires. Mr. Defries stated that he had just completed the fitting up of the kitchens, &c., of the Houses of Parliament, where in future cooking, washing, drying, and all similar processes, would be carried on through the sole agency of gas. This adoption by Parliament of the novel use of gas, had already led to many, and would necessarily lead to many more orders.

USE OF TAR FOR SHEEP.—Having had some experience in the management of sheep, I propose to say a few words on the use of tar for sheep, as a preventive of disease. I have been in the practice of feeding to my sheep four or five gallons of tar to one hundred sheep per year. My plan of feeding is to mix it with salt, by scattering salt in a long narrow trough, and pouring the tar upon the salt. In this way I have no difficulty in getting the sheep to eat it. In addition to this, every time I handle my sheep except when washing them, I apply a little tar to the nose of each; this external application I deem more important in the summer and fall months, when the gad-fly is troubling the flock.

This is the only article that I have used to prevent disease in sheep for a number of years which I have been engaged in wool growing; the result has been that I have not lost one per cent. of my sheep, by diseases of all kinds annually. When I sheared my sheep last May, I had over six hundred, and I am not aware of losing but one since. I ascribe the uniform health of my flock to the use of tar.

I make these statements that others may have the benefit of my experience. WM. S. WRIGHT.—*Ohio Cultivator.*

PULSE OF ANIMALS.—In Vatel's Veterinary Pathology will be found the following account of the number of pulsations in a minute in different animals. The horse from 32 to 38; the ox or the cow from 35 to 42; the ass from 48 to 54; sheep from 70 to 79; dogs from 90 to 100; cats from 110 to 120; rabbits about 120; ducks 136; and hens 140.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT FROM CHINA.

Destructive Conflagration in Hong Kong—$4,000,000 Property Destroyed—Melancholy Loss of Life.

We are indebted to one of the passengers by the ship William Watson, which arrived at this port yesterday, sixty-one days from Hong Kong, China, for an account of a destructive conflagration with which that place was visited on the 29th of December last. The whole of the Chinese portion of the place, including the newspaper offices, was completely destroyed before the fire was subdued. The loss of property destroyed is estimated at $4,000,000.

The fire originated in the store of an opium dealer, who fell asleep and knocked down a burning lamp. The military were called out as soon as it was discovered and used the greatest exertions to suppress the flames, but o little purpose.

Col. Matthews of the Sappers, whilst in the act of laying a train to blow up a building, a Lieutenant in the Navy belonging to the English ship Hastings, aud a Sergeant of the Sappers, lost their lives. The loss of Chinese life was unknown at the time of the sailing of the William Watson, but it was supposed to be very great.

Sir Wm. Bormer called a special meeting of the City Council immediately after the fire, at which it was unanimously resolved that no building should be erected of wood or bamboo thereafter, and that the Chinese streets should be of the same width as that of the Victoria Road.

When the Watson sailed business was dull and freights were low. The clipper ships Shooting Star and Flying Cloud were loading with tea for London at £2 per ton. The Game Cock sailed for Bombay, and the Mermaid was coasting.

The following ships sailed for this port with Chinese passengers, male and female, viz: the John Mayo and Louisa; the latter under a Chinese flag.—*San Francisco Herald.*

Agriculture in Europe.

Crowded as England is with a hungry population, forty-five per cent. of her soil is not under cultivation. Yet the proportion of cultivated to uucultivated land, is higher in England than in any other country in Europe. In Russia, less than one-fifth of the soil is under cultivation; in Sweden, only one-seventh; in Austria and Holland, one-fifth; in Switzerland, one-fourth; in France, fifty-four hundredths. There is really no *need* of emigration. In England, as appears by a parliamentary report, there are sixteen millions of acres, wholly unproductive, that might easily be made productive. The reason why these acres are permitted to lie unimproved is, that as soon as they are enclosed, and *before* they can be sufficiently reclaimed to produce a paying crop, they become subject to tithe and tax. Hence only men of large capital dare to undertake the task, and they prefer to invest their capital where the return is more speedy and more certain.

White Clover.

We are satisfied that our farmers do not appreciate the white clover or white honeysuckle, as some call it, so highly as they ought, nor take so much pains as they should to cultivate it. In fact but very few sow it, when they lay down their lands to grass. They trust to nature to supply them with it.

When once seeded with it the soil will retain it a long time, for the low short stems will bear heads full of seeds, and these become scattered out into the soil, and thus the seed is kept in the ground and springs up wherever circumstances are favorable for its developement. A moderately clayey loam is congenial for it, and if this be dressed with an occasional dressing of plaster it will bring it out abundantly. It affords an excellent pasture for bees, the best honey in the world being obtained by these little insects from white clover.

It also affords the best pasturage for cattle, especially cows from whose milk cheese is manufactured, as experiments have proved that cows that graze upon this species of clover yield milk that contains *casein*, or cheesey particles, in greater abundance than they do when fed on the common grasses. We throw these hints out for our readers to think of. Four or five pounds, mingled with a due quantity of other grass seeds will be sufficient for an acre, and it can be obtained at reasonable prices at the agricultural seed stores.

Rhubarb.

Garden Rhubarb is as valuable as an early vegetable. For sauce and pastry, it is a good substitute for apples and other fruits, it being ready for use at a time when these fruits cannot easily be obtained. Its goodness, however, depends much on its being so cultivated as to secure a large and rapid growth. For this purpose select a location to which the sun has a free access. Then from a space of sufficient length and width remove the earth to the depth of two and a half feet, and fill the trench with rich soil and manure. Let the latter be used plentifully, for rhubarb is a great consumer, and there is no danger of enriching it too much. The ground being thus prepared, the plants may be inserted with their tops two or three inches below the surface.

This mode of planting involves some labor at first, but the process need not be be often repeated, for the same plants, thus set, will produce well for years with proper care and manuring. Besides, my maxim is, What is worth growing at all is worth good cultivation, such as will bring the vegetable cultivated to something like perfection. And I have never seen this maxim more favorably illustrated than in the case of rhubarb when treated in the manner above described. It then has a rapid growth, and produces stalks of unusual size and tenderness. To protect and enrich the plants a good covering of manure should be applied in the fall and mixed with the soil in the spring. [Farmer's Monthly Visitor.

A certain Chief Justice, on hearing an ass bray, interrupted the late Mr. Curran in his speech to the jury, by saying—"One at a time Mr. Curran, if you please." The speech being finished, the judge began his charge, and during its progress the ass sent forth the full vigor of its lungs, whereupon the advocate said—"Does not your lordship hear a remarkable *echo* in the court?"

Toleration in Persia.—Information has been received by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, that the Shah of Persia, on the solicitation of Colonel Sheil, English Ambassador, has issued an order granting equal protection to all Christians, with the right of proselyting, and of change from one sect to another.—*Puritan Recorder.*