

## VARIORUM.

**HOW TO CLEAR GARDENS OF INSECTS.**—Every amateur conversant with the management of a garden, however small, has experienced more or less annoyance from the marauding depredations of slugs.—Their intrusions being generally committed in the night, or moist rainy weather, they are more difficult to detect. Traps, such as cabbage leaves, are sometimes strewed over the ground under which the slugs are decoyed, so that when the leaves are removed, they may readily be destroyed; so far, this answers the purpose tolerably well, but the following is the plan which, after many trials, I find attended with the least trouble and expense. Take a handful or two of decayed vegetable tops of any kind, pea or bean halm I generally prefer, this is laid down at short intervals, throughout my beds or quarters, especially in the kitchen garden, amongst recently planted crops of greens, salad, etc. The decayed weeds, or pea halm, are shifted about a yard or so every morning, and the place where it lay watered with lime water, a very small portion of which will quite destroy both slugs and worms. It may be well to observe, that any kind of vegetable substance in a decayed state will answer quite as well as pea or bean halm. In the flower garden I frequently cut down some of the herbaceous or annual plants that require it, and are nearest at hand, on a flat branch of a tree when very full of leaves, and this will generally last a week or ten days. Lime water I find to be a most essential thing, not only for slugs and worms, for the destruction of which it is of incalculable value. I frequently apply it on my grass sward, among the flower beds and for plants in pots, also to box edging in the kitchen garden; and since I applied this freely, I have suffered but little from insects of any kind.—*Floricultural Magazine.*

**THE WORLD.**—This is an agreeable world, after all. If we would only bring ourselves to look at the objects that surround us in their true light, we should see beauty where we could hear nothing but discord. To be sure, there is a great deal of anxiety and vexation to meet; we cannot expect to sail on a summer sea forever, yet if we hold a calm eye and steady hand, we soon can trim our sails, and manage our helm so as to avoid the quicksands and weather the storms that threaten shipwreck. We are members of one great family! We are travelling the same road, and shall arrive at the same goal. We breathe the free air, we are subject to the same bounty, and we shall lie down in the bosom of our common mother. It is not becoming, then, that brother should hate brother, it is not proper that friends should deceive friends; it is not right that neighbor should deceive neighbor. We pity that man who can harbor enmity towards his fellow; he loses half the enjoyment of life; he embitters his own existence. Let us tear from our eyes the colored medium that invests every object with the green line of jealousy and suspicion; turn a deaf ear to the voice of scandal; breathe the spirit of charity upon our lips; and from our hearts let the rich gushings of human kindness swell up as from a fountain—so the "golden age" will become no fiction; and the "island of the blest" bloom in more than Hesperian beauty.

**FOR THE LOVERS OF SILLY STUFF.**—Miss Arabella Scinderilla Georgietta Gulielmina Clishmaclaver Petweet, was the only daughter of fond parents; she was in the early bloom and gay promise of sixteen. She was beautiful beyond the fairest of her sex—beyond all parallel of earthly perfection. Her radiant eyes were like two rival suns in the arch of heaven's firmament; her forehead was smooth and fair as the seven times polished alabaster; her maidenly cheeks were like two luscious peaches, glowing with a gentle red, inviting and yet shrinking from the kisses of the breeze; her lips were the exact copy and sweet semblance of two delicate slices of ripe water-melon, so red and so inviting; her teeth were not like those of mortal mouths, so fair, so white—they were evidently made to set off her heavenly countenance, rather than for the gross purposes of mastication; her neck was graceful as the swan's, and smooth, and white, and clear as the fairest spermaceti candle. But were we to attempt to describe each of her indescribable perfections, we should never have done—suffice it to say, in all personal loveliness she was perfection itself doubly perfected; and her mind every way fitted to adorn so fit a person. Such was Miss Arabella Scinderilla Georgietta Clishmaclaver Petweet and yet she was mortal—yes, she was mortal as the mortalest! How shall we relate the heart-rending tale—We won't try.

**FEEDING INFANTS.**—A young lady with whom we are acquainted gave birth lately to her first child. The little one was about a fortnight old when we asked a lady how it and the young mother were. 'The mother is doing well,' she answered, 'but the child is very cross; and indeed it is not to be wondered at, for they are all so pleased, they seem hardly to know what they are about. The mother feeds it, and then the sister feeds it, and then the grandmother feeds it, and then the nurse feeds it, and thus they make the child ill.' Our friend was right. We should like to have shown the young lady the stomach of a new born infant now in our museum. It would not hold more than three table-spoonfuls, and yet they were trying to cram food down the little innocent's throat by teacupfuls.—*New York Medical Examiner.*

**POWER OF MUSIC ON NIGHTINGALES.**—In the gardens of Dilgusha, at Shiraz, in Persia, nightingales are said to abound, which not only sing during the night, but whose plaintive melody is not by day suspended in the East, as it is in our colder region; and it is said that several of those birds have expired while contending with musicians in the loudness or variety of their notes. It has, indeed, been known, according to Pliny, that in vocal trials among nightingales, the vanquished bird terminated its song only with its life.

An intelligent Persian, who repeated this story again, and permitted me to write it down from his lips, declared that he had more than once been present when a celebrated lutanist, Mirza Mahammed, surnamed Baltab, was playing to a large company in a grove near Shiraz, where he distinctly saw the nightingales trying to vie with the musician; sometimes warbling on the trees, sometimes fluttering from branch to branch, as if they wished to approach the instrument whence the melody proceeded; and at length, dropping on the ground in a kind of ecstasy, from which he assured me they were soon raised by a change in the mode. And in one of Strada's *Academical Profusions*; we find a beautiful Poem which tends to confirm the Persian report; for it supposes a spirit of emulation so powerful in the nightingale, that having strained her little throat, vainly endeavoring to excel the musician, she breathes out her life in one last effort and drops, upon the instrument which had contributed to her defeat.

**THE RULING PASSION.**—A Mr. \*\*\*, a Master in Chancery, was on his death-bed—a very wealthy man. Some occasion of great urgency occurred, in which it was necessary to make an affidavit, and the attorney, missing one or two other masters whom he inquired after, ventured to ask if Mr. \*\*\* would be able to receive the deposition. The proposal seemed to give him momentary strength; his clerk was sent for, and the oath taken in due form. The master was lifted up in bed, and with difficulty subscribed the paper; as he sank down again, he made a signal to his clerk—"Wallace."—"Sir;"—"your ear—lower—lower. Have you got the half-crown." He was dead before morning.—*Lockhart's Life of Scott.*

**"A BLUE."**—Sir Walter Scott, in his Diary, noticing a facetious and lively lady being called "a Blue," observes: "if to have good sense and good humour, mixed with a strong power of observing, and an equally strong one of expressing—if of this the result must be blue, she shall be as blue as they will. Such cant is the refuge of fools, who fear those who can turn them into ridicule: it is a common trick to revenge supposed railers with good, substantial calumny."

**DEPTH.**—Your deepest pools, like your deepest politicians and philosophers, often turn out more shallow than was expected.—*Sir W. Scott.*

**DAYS' FISHING.**—Since the days of Seges, emperor of Ethiopia, three days of appointed sport and happiness have seldom answered.—*Ibid.*

**ANTS' EGGS** are a costly luxury in Siam: they are not much larger than grains of sand, are sent to table curried, or rolled in green leaves, mingled with shreds or very fine slices of fat pork.

**SIAMESE NOBILITY.**—Instead of looking at the dress of a Siamese to estimate his rank, it is necessary to cast the eye upon the slave following him, who bears upon a tray the badge which designates his master's rank. Tea-kettles of gold and silver, plain or ornamented, are patents of the highest grades of nobility, and are presented by the king as commissions of office.

**KILLING A SHARK.**—Dr. Ruschenberger, in his recent voyage, witnessed the killing of a shark, which he thus describes:—The fish was about 10 feet long, and his jaws were capacious enough to bite a man's leg off. At last, he was secured, and was quickly seen floundering, and lashing his powerful tail upon deck. In an instant, a dozen knives were gleaming around him; and he had been dragged scarcely to the mainmast before the tail was severed from his body by successive blows of an axe. His abdomen was ripped up, and his heart, which was cut out, lay palpitating for some time upon the fluke of an anchor. Still he floundered, and so powerful were his muscular exertions, that several strong men could not control them. His huge jaws, armed with five rows of sharp teeth, were removed, his brain exposed, and head cut off, and in five minutes parts of his body still quick with life, were frying at the galley, under the knife and fork of the cook, while the fins and tail, like so many trophies, were hung up to dry.

**SLAVERY** flourishes in Zanzibar, where slaves are confined in a wooden cage from the time of their arrival from the coast of Africa, until they are sold. The cage is about 20 feet square, and at one time, there have been no less than 150 slaves, men, women, and children, locked up in it!

**PLURALITY OF WIVES.**—A native of Zanzibar, thus illustrated the bad policy of having more than one wife, although the law of his country allows four. "Suppose you have more, (than one,) they always fight; suppose live in the same house, they fight; suppose live in different house, they fight; and the man can be no happy. The woman very bad for that."

**DUELLING.**—The Arabs have this laconic argument against duelling, which they consider a silly custom. "If a man insult you," say they, "kill him on the spot; but do not give him the opportunity to kill, as well as insult, you."

**PRAYING MACHINE.**—On the high roads of Japan, every mountain, hill, and cliff, is consecrated to some divinity, to whom travellers are required to address long prayers. As this would occupy too much time for those who are in haste, a machine is used consisting of a upright post, with an iron plate set into the top. The turning round of this plate, upon which the prayer is engraved, is deemed equivalent to repeating the prayer.

**MECHANISM OF THE ELEPHANT'S SKULL.**—A person looking at the skull of an elephant, would naturally, judging from the size, suppose that the animal has a very large brain. Such, however, is not the case; but the magnitude of the skull is dependant upon another cause, viz. the great extent of the outer table, (as it is called;) for, be it understood that the cavity of the cranium is not by any means so large as the external appearance of the skull would lead one to imagine.

But, what end is to be gained by this great extent of surface? The explanation is this:—The weight of the tusk, the trunk, and huge grinding teeth, is very great, and there must be a corresponding proportion of muscular substance to support this weight. Now, it is a law in nature, that extent of surface is every where conjoined with the least possible bulk; nor is there ever an accumulation of useless matter in a living being. To obtain a sufficient surface for the attachment of the muscles necessary to support the tusk, trunk, etc., and at the same time to afford the least possible weight, the two tables of the skull are united by a diploe, or vast number of thin plates of bone, disposed in an irregular manner, so as to form cells, than which nothing could be imagined or contrived which would more beautifully and completely answer the purpose.

Could the most accomplished mechanist, or the most learned anatomist, point out a better or more perfect mode of attaining the desired end? Certainly not. On the contrary, many and important are the hints which have been gleaned from the book of nature, and most usefully and profitably applied to art and science.

**REPRODUCTION OF THE LEGS OF SPIDERS AND CRUSTACEA.**—If the leg of a spider be broken off in the middle of a joint, or at one of the lower joints, the animal invariably tears it off at the hip, because the outer integument of the leg being dense and unyielding, would not permit the wound to close; and, consequently, the creature would soon die of hæmorrhage; or the loss of the vital sanies, which in spiders and crustacea answers the same purpose as the blood in the higher orders of animals. But at the hip, the parts being soft and elastic, the wound speedily closes, and the animal is little the worse for the injury.

This fact is noticed in the crustacea generally; and it is worthy of remark, that the leg is reproduced, but not immediately—not until the annual change, or casting of the shell. The new limb is at first slender, though perfect in its various parts; and it gradually increases in size until it has attained the magnitude of the other legs.

**TENDER MERCIES OF WAR.**—At the battle of Austerlitz, a division of the Russian army which fought in alliance with the Austrians, in retreating mistook its way, and was gradually forced by Soult's advance, on a large extent of smooth space covered with snow. The space was found to be a frozen lake. The French halted at its edge, and commenced a heavy fire of cannon, not on the unfortunate Russians, but on the lake. The ice, loaded with men, horses, and guns, at last gave way under the cannon balls, and in another moment the whole division was engulfed.

**SINGULAR DEVICE.**—The Arabs who serve as guides through the mountains near the seel and cataracts of the Nile, have a singular method of extorting presents from the traveller. They alight at certain spots and beg a present; if it is refused, they collect a heap of sand and mould a tomb, and then placing a stone at each of the extremities, they apprise the traveller that his tomb is made—meaning henceforward there will be no security for him in that rocky wilderness.—Most persons pay a trifling tribute rather than have their graves made before their eyes.

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