

tire windows, and other little conveniences deemed matters of absolute necessity in English houses; the oak flooring was only partially concealed by tattered carpets, and venerable tapestry hung in fragments from the mildewed walls. Below, indeed, with all my fastidiousness, I confess there was much to interest the lovers of animated nature. Large folding doors, leading from the great hall to the dining-room, remained hospitably open, the hinges positively refusing to perform the office for which they had been designed some eighty years previous to the date of which I write.

O'Dwyer's miscellaneous favorites had here ample space to range in—various perches were stuck in the painted walls: the principal and largest was occupied by an old white-headed eagle—a noble fellow, who looked with calmness and contempt on the bipeds and quadrupeds which passed his stand. Three or four hawks, a buzzard, and innumerable stuffed birds, skins of foxes, horns of deer, fishing tackle, and fowling pieces, completed the motley garniture. Graceful stag-hounds, wary terriers, stately yet gentle house dogs, and very many litters of puppies, were scattered in various attitudes and astonishing harmony on the ground; two or three magnificent cats also shared the territory, though their most luxurious haunt was their kind master's bed, which in one of his usual whims, he had conveyed to the dining room, where he usually cooked his own dinner after his own fashion.

The morning succeeding his interview with Fox, he arose at the customary hour of six, partook of a stir-about breakfast, traversed the farm, returned home, and suspended by a woolen line, in front of a roaring sparkling turf fire a fat and lusty goose—his intended dinner; and leaving it in charge of his nephew (a young collegian, who bore with him his uncle's whims for the sake of his inheritance,) went to superintend some other matters either in the kennel or stable. The youth twisted and twirled the string, basted the savoury bird with one hand, and held a volume of Homer in the other—meditating on his uncle's oddities one moment, and on the heroic deeds of Achilles the next—when suddenly both his reveries and employment were interrupted by Dennis, who, advancing half his unwieldy person beyond the door, ejaculated "Master Jack! Master Jack! here's the great parliament man and his valet coming riding up the steps: where's master?" Death and destruction! the young tyro to be detected in the vile act of goose

basting!—it was 'quite too much.' In an instant the dinner was deposited, string and all in the dripping-pan, and thrust unceremoniously under the bed, the only hiding-place he could at the moment discover. Master Jack then advanced, with shining face, 'to do the honours,' and despatched Denis to summon his uncle. Dermot O'Dwyer entered, but his eye unfortunately rested on the spot 'where once a goose had been;' and without the slightest notice of the M. P., the exclamation burst forth: "Blood and thunder and turf! where's my goose?—where's my goose, I say?" When espying a small portion of the embrowed string which strayed from its resting place, he bent on one knee, drew forth the hidden treasure, carefully replaced it, twirling the worsted with skill and dexterity—then, and not till then, cordially welcomed his guest to his hospitable but eccentric abode, saying: "Now, as I have found my goose, the Fox will not, I am sure, refuse to partake of it." How the invitation was accepted as frankly as given—how a merry party joined them in the evening—how the blind piper played, and how light feet and bounding hearts echoed his music until the gray beam of morning warned them homewards—I cannot now describe: but this I can assert, upon unquestionable authority, that all parties were pleased with each other—a thing of rare occurrence at costly and fashionable entertainments.

MISCELLANEOUS.

"Various that the mind of desultory man,
Studios of change and pleas'd with novelty,
May be indulg'd."

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY.

It is mentioned in the *Encyclopædia Americana*, as a characteristic of the Mississippi belonging to a very few of the long and large rivers, that it rises in very cold regions, and runs towards the equator. By thus flowing through almost every variety of climate, it is the channel of conveyance to a corresponding variety of products, and must thus become the scene of the most active internal commerce on the globe, in which the products of the extreme north will be exchanged against those of the almost tropical regions in which it disembogues. "If," says the article quoted, "we except the Amazon, probably no other valley on the globe will compare in size with that of the Mississippi; and it probably surpasses all others in the richness and variety of its soil, and its general adaptation to the support and comfort of civilized men. In extent, it is like a continent; in beauty and fertility, it is the most

perfect garden of nature. It embraces twenty degrees of latitude, and thirty of longitude, which we may observe to be equal to the distance between Gibraltar and Edinburgh, and to that which, in the same latitudes in Europe, comprehends Portugal, Spain and Italy and the Mediterranean inclosed between them and the western coast of Greece. From Oleanne point on the Alleghan, to the highest point of boat navigation on the Missouri, is 5000 miles—by water, of course. What a picture is this of magnitude and prospective wealth. But how is the conception of it enlarged by the reflection, that it is the demesne of a people, whose institutions give the greatest spur to industry, and make life in such a region best worth having.

RESPECT FOR AGE.

A Russian Princess of great beauty, in company with her father and a young French Marquis, visited a celebrated Swiss Doctor of the last century, Michael Scuppach: when the Marquis began to pass his jokes upon the long white beard of one of the Doctor's neighbors who was present, and offered to bet twelve louis d'ors that no lady present would dare to kiss the dirty old fellow. The Russian Princess ordered her attendant to bring a plate, and deposited twelve louis d'ors, and sent it to the Marquis, who was too polite to decline his stake. The fair Russian then approached the peasant, to salute you after the manner of my country," and, embracing, gave him a kiss. She then presented him the gold which was on the plate, saying, "take this as a remembrance of me, and as a sign that the Russian girls, think it a duty to honor old age."

LEAP YEAR.—The following is extracted from an old volume printed in 1606, entitled "Courtship, Love and Matrimony:"

"Albeit is nowe become a parte of the common lawe, in regard to the social relations of life, that as often every bestile year dothe return, the ladyes have the privalege during the time it continueth, of making love unto men, which they may do either by words or lookes, as unto them it seemeth proper; and moreover no man will be entitled to the benefits of the clergy who dothe refuse to accept the offers of a ladye, or who dothe in any wise treat her proposal with slight or contumely.

Providence conceals from us the moment of our death, that we may employ all the others well.