



THE ASTOUNDING BROOD.

"Two minds with but a single thought,  
Two hearts that beat as one."



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A Queer Brood.

The following paragraph is at present going the rounds:

A lady residing at Cow Island, Louisiana, and wishing to "set" a hen, went into a field adjoining her residence where some of her chickens had been "laying," and produced some seventeen eggs and placed under the hen. When in the course of "human events" the chickens were hatched, lo, and behold, there came forth four small sized alligators. It is supposed that alligators from an adjoining marsh had deposited their eggs in the field, and she not knowing the difference placed them under the hen. And what is more strange, the young alligators follow the mother hen around the premises as happy as a Colorado beetle in a potato patch.

If there are any who feel inclined to doubt the literal truthfulness of this story (though there is nothing scientifically improbable about it)—let them consider it as a political parable, and take the above sketch as an interpretation thereof.

Rural Rhymes.

NO 5.—"OUT ON THE FARM."

I once loved a sweet rural beauty who had  
The rosiest cheeks you could see,—  
The only girl of a wealthy old dad,  
And I thought she was spooney on me.  
Some three times a week I was sure to be there,  
Never caring for sunshine or storm,  
To coddle the old man, and whisper soft words  
To my fair maiden out on the farm.

I know the old chap had sufficient of stamps  
To make us both jolly for life,  
And I said to myself, she's the girl for me,  
And determined to make her my wife;  
And I never went there but she met me with smiles,  
And a welcome so loving and warm,  
So I reckon'd myself just in clover knee-deep,  
With my rural maid out on the farm.

Now often we roam'd near the old orchard gate,  
While she pointed out to my view  
The trees, where in Autumn the turnips hung,  
And the bush where the pop-corn grew;  
And she shew'd me her favorite cow, which she said  
Gave the butter-milk luscious and warm,  
And I took it all in, for I finally believed  
In my sweet maiden out on the farm.

But now I know better, and see I've been fool'd,  
By this maiden so knowing and sly,—  
She had made up her mind that the old man's cash,  
Was all that I had in my eye.  
But the worst of it is, my-companions all know,  
And I shun them with dread and alarm,  
For fear they should ask when the wedding's to be  
With the rural maid out on the farm.

"All the world's a stage," and many men  
and women are satisfied to steal a ride be-  
hind.—N. Y. Express.

S. R. QUIGLEY,  
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- St Marguerite do
- Pentecost do
- Mistassini do
- Beesie do
- Little Cascapedia (Baie des Chaleurs).
- Nouvelle do
- Escumencac do
- Malbaie (near Perce) do
- Magdalen (South Shore).
- Montlouis do
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