

POETRY.

An Unhappy Exception.

The world is full of changes; there is nothing
 All things are evanescent, fleeting, transitory,
 The earth, the sea, the sky, the stars, where'er
 The fancy ranges, all life is full
 Of changes.
 Like sands upon the ocean's shore, that are
 Ever drifting,
 So all the fading scenes of earth incessantly
 Are shifting.
 "Change rules the mighty universe; there is no
 Power to block it."

One at a Time.

One step at a time, and that well-placed,
 We reach the grandest height;
 One blow at a time, and the tree's cleft through
 Will slowly come to light;
 One drop at a time, and the forest grows;
 One seed at a time, and the river flows
 Into the boundless sea.
 One word at a time, and the greatest book
 Is written and its story told;
 One stone at a time, and a palace rears
 Aloft its stately head;
 One blow at a time, and the tree's cleft through
 And a city will stand where the forest grew
 A few short years before.
 One foe at a time, and he subdued,
 And the conflict will be won;
 One grain at a time, and the sands of life
 Will slowly come to run;
 One minute, another, the hours fly;
 One day at a time, and our lives speed by
 Into eternity.
 One grain of knowledge, and that well stored,
 Another, and more when
 And as time rolls on your mind will shine
 With many a garnered gem;
 Of thought and wisdom, and time will tell,
 "One thing at a time, and that well,
 Is wisdom's proven rule."
 —Golden Days.

Musio.

Was it light that spoke from the darkness
 Or music that shone from the word,
 When the night was kindled with the sound
 Of the sun or the first-born bird?
 Souls enthralled and entranced in bondage
 Of seasons that faintly divine
 Bound fast round with the fetters of flesh,
 And blinded with light that dies,
 Lived not surely till music spoke, and the spirit
 Of life was heard.
 II.
 Music, sister of sunrise and herald of life
 To be,
 Smiled as dawn on the spirit of man, and
 The thrall was free.
 Slave of nature and sort of the bondman
 Of life and fate,
 Dumb with passionless patience that breathed
 Forlorn and reluctant breath,
 Heard, beheld, and soul made answer and
 Communed aloud with the sea.
 III.
 Morn'spake, and he heard; and the pas-
 sionate silent moon
 Kept for him no silence; and soft from the
 mounting moon
 Fell the sound of her splendor, heard as dawn's
 In the breeze of the night.
 Of men, but of birds whose note bade man's
 Soul quicken and leap to light;
 And the song of the spake, and the light and the
 darkness of earth were as chords in tune.
 —[A. C. Swinburne.

Fare Thee Well.

I.
 Fare thee well! And tho' in sorrow
 O'er my head I see grief,
 Hope I for a brighter morn
 To bring us a sweet relief.
 When again we fondly tread
 Paths unscathed and free,
 As God's sun shines overhead,
 Where all Nature's e'er discloses
 God's great love and grace,
 'Neath His vaulted arch of blue.
 II.
 Absent from thee tho' I wander,
 'Gainst life's ills to e'er contend,
 I can love, in my heart's core,
 O'er thee as my constant friend;
 In my dreams I will behold thee,
 As thy vision fair come near,
 Bending still with fondness o'er me,
 Hiding me 'neath thy dear cheer.
 Fare thee well! tho' we may sorrow,
 God will speed us on our morn.
 III.
 Those you trust are oft' deceiving,
 And false hearts will cause thee pain,
 Our misfortune is grieving,
 Bound, as 'twere with fate's iron chain,
 Yet be brave, and cease repining,
 For God all your thoughts will read,
 Cast aside despair a dark pall;
 In thy heart let devotion dwell,
 Stain thy soul, now and forever.
 IV.
 When at eve the golden sunset
 Tinge the fleecy clouds with gold,
 In the arbutus we meet,
 Let us be still and let us hold,
 In the spirit, tho' asunder,
 In the body we may be,
 Headed of a great world's thunder,
 Or the surges of life's sea,
 A bond and not for ever,
 E'en death itself can never sever.
 —[David B. Metcalf.

Love's Season.

BY LILA WHEELER WILCOX.

In sad sweet days when hectic flushes
 Burn red on maple and sumac leaves,
 When sorrowful winds wail through the
 Rues,
 And all things whisper of loss and grief,
 When close and closer bold Frost approaches
 To snitch the blossom from Nature's breast,
 When night forever only cannot enter,
 Oh, then I think that I love you best.
 And yet when Winter, that tyrant master,
 Has buried Autumn in walls of frost,
 And bound and fettered where bold Frost cast
 Her,
 Lies outraged Nature in helpless woe,
 When all earth's pleasures in four walls centre,
 And side by side in the snug home nest
 We list the tempest's wail cannot enter,
 Oh, then I say that I love you best.
 But later on, when the Siren Season
 Betrays the trust of the smile King,
 And glad Earth laughs at the act of treason,
 And Winter dies in the arms of Spring,
 When buds and birds all push and flutter
 To free fair Nature from long oppression,
 I thrill with feelings I cannot utter,
 And then I am certain I love you best.
 But when in splendor the queenly Summer
 Reigns over the earth and the skies above,
 When Nature kisses to the royal comer,
 And even the sun flames his with Love,
 When Pleasure bids in the merry weather,
 And Care lies on the sword to rest,
 Oh, whether apart or whether together,
 It is then I know that I love you best.
 —[Hippocrit's.

A Thought for This Year.

We see by the light of thousands of years,
 And the knowledge of millions of men,
 The lessons they learned through blood and
 Tears.
 Are on for the reading, and then
 We sneer at their errors and follies and dream
 Their frail kindred and the skies above,
 And call ourselves wise, forgetting it seems
 That the future may laugh at our own.
 —[May E. McKirick.

Eighteen Hundred and Ninety-Three.

At midnight, on my study door,
 Came a young man and the skies above,
 And I heard a deep, deep sigh,
 I opened to the hoary year,
 And felt upon my face the tear
 That came with the "good-bye."
 Scarce had he passed beyond my sight,
 When in garments pure and white,
 Came his heir, he held a chain—
 "Gifts," each year a day,
 He clasped them on, I knelt to pray,
 The New Year gave me hope again.
 —[Mrs. E. Hathaway.

SOME NEW FACTS ABOUT LONDON.

Interesting Statistics of the World's Great
 City from Recent Returns.

The total population of the county of London on the 6th of April, 1891, was 4,231,431. The increase in ten years being 397,237, or 10.36 per cent. The number of inhabited houses was 557,134, an increase on 1881 of 68,249, or 13.96 per cent.
 The total expenditure on the local government of London in the year 1889-90 was £10,726,000, or as much as an Australian colony. This was equal to £210s. 8d. per head of population. The rates were levied upon a rateable value of £31,586,000, so that the amount per £1 was 6s. 9d., but the ratepayer only paid 4s. 10d. of this amount. The central rates fall equally upon all the parishes, but the rates for parish purposes are very unequal, ranging from 3s. 9d. down to 1s. 0d. For imperial and local purposes combined London pays in taxation approximately £17,000,000. The inland Revenue returns show that the total incomes earned in London amount to £123,513,000, so that the burden of taxation amounts to 14 per cent. The balance of the loans outstanding at the end of 1891 was £48,032,000.
 On Jan. 1, 1891, the paupers numbered 112,547 and the cost of pauperism was in 1889-90 £2,340,000, the cost of each pauper being £21 10s. 1d.

The number of persons committed for trial during 1889-90 was 2,906, while 109,749 were convicted summarily. The habitual offenders known to the police not committed during the year numbered 2,362. The total represents a percentage of 2.7 to the whole population. The cost of the police was £1,799,000, or £15.12s. 9d. per head of the incriminated class. Industrial schools cost £20,652.
 In the schools of the metropolis the pupils numbered in 1890 91 632,351; the total cost of the Board schools was £1,960,000, of which £1,272,000 was thrown on local rates.
 The death rate in London in 1891 was 21.4 per 1,000 of the population, which compares favorably with other large towns, Liverpool rising as high as 27 per 1,000.
 The open spaces in London, without reckoning the leased burial grounds, extend to 5,449 acres. Besides there are open spaces on its borders which bring up the total of parks accessible to Londoners to 22,000 acres.
 The fires in the metropolis in 1891 numbered 2,892, of which 193 were serious. The lives lost numbered 61, 31 of these having been taken out alive. The total cost of the fire was £120,728, or 6jd. per head of the population. The fire insurance companies contributed £27,106. Property was insured for no less a sum than £806,000,000.

RAINED FIRE ON THEM.

Spectators of a Railroad Accident Burned to Death.

Alton Junction, twenty-three miles north of St. Louis, was the scene of a series of accidents, begun in a railroad collision, and as a result eight persons are dead, twelve mortally injured, and as many more seriously hurt.
 The first accident befell the Southwest-bound Limited express train which runs between New York and St. Louis. The train is operated by the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad. The train left St. Louis at 8:05 o'clock Saturday morning and arrived at the edge of the junction yards at 8:50 o'clock. Just outside of the yard is a curve. After rounding this curve, and within a hundred yards of a siding, the engineer noticed that a switch was turned. The train was running at the rate of fifty miles an hour, and it was impossible to stop.
 Webb Ross, the engineer, stuck to the engine, and was applying the air brakes when it struck a string of twenty loaded oil cars. The second oil car from the engine exploded, and 7,000 gallons of oil were sent flying in all directions.
 It spread out over the tracks in fire. Engineer Ross was unhurt up to that time, and he jumped from the engine to escape. No man could cross through the flames that surrounded the engine. Before he had gone ten feet he fell and was burned to death.
 The flames spread to the other oil cars, and seven of them were soon hissing and roaring and sending up volumes of smoke. Hundreds of people flocked to the scene and persisted in standing in close to the wreck and burning cars of oil.
 When the crash came the passengers were thrown about the cars, but most of them escaped injury.
 The crowd of onlookers had been increasing steadily. It was 11:30 o'clock when one of the tanks exploded, followed instantly by four more. Fully 35,000 gallons of boiling and burning oil were tossed into the air. The roar and vibration could be heard for miles.
 The instant the explosions came some of the spectators tried to run. The oil seemed to be carried by the air over the great crowd, as far out as the village. It seemed to fall in streams and pools.
 For those within the circle of 100 yards there was no escape. Their clothing was burned, and literally fell from their bodies. In a moment those who could began running hither and thither, waving their hands and screaming for help.
 Some went to the nearest water and others ran into the fields, and some missing yet. Panic reigned for a short time, until the uninjured recovered their presence of mind to care for the afflicted.
 Two barrels of linseed oil were taken from a grocery store and applied to the wounds by several physicians who happened to be on the ground. Every house in the little village was turned into a temporary hospital, and every doctor in Alton and its vicinity was summoned.
 As soon as possible a train was made up, and twenty of the sufferers were brought here to St. Joseph's Hospital.

UNCLE SAM AND CHI A.

The Post of Minister to Washington Goes Begging in the Celestial Empire.

A New York despatch says:—A Washington special says the Chinese Government is having some difficulty in getting anyone to come to the United States to act as minister to Washington. The present minister, Tsai Kuo Kwin, will soon return to China. He has been involved in several transactions in this country, chief of which was his relations with a visionary scheme for commercial concessions on the part of the Chinese empire, and which have been represented to the home Government as calculated to injure the standing of the Mongolian empire in the eyes of the United States. For this he has been reprimanded by Li Hung Chang the Prime Minister of China. It is said Li Hung Chang is determined that his Government shall be represented here, as, according to his opinion, there has been nothing to disturb the relations existing between the two countries.

A MATRIMONIAL BUREAU.

How Settlers in Manitoba Were Supplied With Wives Some Years Ago.

"Not many years ago I was in the wholesale matchmaking business," said an ex-officer of the army to a Washington Star reporter. "It was matchmaking of the matrimonial kind. At that time, in 1879 and 1880, Manitoba was being opened to settlement and there was a rush of colonists thither from Ontario and Quebec and from Great Britain. The settlers were mostly men. Some of them had families and would send for them as soon as they had got somewhat fixed, but very many were bachelors. They were making homes for themselves, and naturally they found that they needed wives. Not a few of them were sons of English farmers and nearly all were respectable and hard-working fellows. They could not wait to go and get wives, and so helpmeets had to be imported for them. Young women

GUARANTEED AS TO RESPECTABILITY. were brought over from England in great numbers, and this business rapidly grew to be an important branch of the immigration traffic. One philanthropic lady in England devoted her attention to exporting homeless but worthy girls by the ship load to Quebec, whence they were forwarded to Manitoba. Trains would come into St. Boniface, across the river from Winnipeg, bringing two or three car loads of available wives at a time. They were chaperoned with due regard to propriety and were committed to the land and mining agents, who conveyed them to Winnipeg, where suitable quarters were provided for their temporary accommodation. The accommodation was very temporary because they were soon disposed of. The settlers who were bachelors applied for the girls as fast as they were brought in. Their applications were not considered unless they were properly guaranteed as to character and ability to support a wife. Few of them came to Winnipeg from a shorter distance than 250 miles. Most commonly they were certified by letters from land agents stating that John Smith, for example, was located on such and such a tract of land, and was the owner of 1500 horses, was sound and kind and so forth. On making

FORMAL APPLICATIONS FOR A WIFE

John Smith was asked what sort of woman he preferred—whether blonde or brunette, tall or short, etc. Having stated his preferences he was introduced to one of the available ladies, whereupon matters were quickly arranged. A remarkable point was that no suitor had ever to be introduced to a second girl. Invariably he was content with the first one and immediately married her. Apparently the men considered that when they had gone so far as an introduction they had committed themselves irrevocably. "In this way," said the agent, "the process of artificial selection, myself and other persons, officially in charge at Winnipeg, made matches by wholesale. The young women were given free transportation of course, the object being to make homes in Manitoba and thus secure the permanent settlement of the country. Incidentally the natural increase of the population was provided for. I remember one man who drove over 700 miles to get a wife. He was present when a train load of girls arrived and spotted the young woman he wanted offhand. Within seven minutes after the train came in the pair were united in matrimony and the bridegroom started away with his bride in a buckboard wagon."

Shocking Crime in France.

A shocking crime has (says a Paris correspondent) been committed, under very painful circumstances, at Avor, in the Department of the Cher. In a farmhouse at that place lived a widow, with her three sons and two daughters. The old woman was in bad health, and her children took it in turn to sit up with her at night. Soon after midnight one of her sons had just gone up his post to another brother after watching for some time, when he heard a noise in the sitting-room, and on entering it with a candle in his hand, he received a blow on the breast with a heavy hammer. The attack was followed up, but the light having been extinguished his assailant was not able to direct his blows with any precision, and to this circumstance he probably owed his life. In the meantime his brother, who was nursing the sick mother, hearing the scuffle, rushed out of the house and gave the alarm to the neighbors. When, however, he returned to the scene he found the old woman extended lifeless on the bed, her skull fractured with one blow of the terrible hammer, and as shrieks were issuing from the room occupied by his sisters, he hurried to their assistance, arriving just in time to save both from a similar fate, one of them being already very seriously hurt. The murderer was the kind brother who had thus attempted to kill the whole family. He was soon disarmed and tightly bound pending the appearance of the gendarmes on the scene of the drama. The only explanation given of the crime is that the murderer had wished to undertake a journey for change of air, on the pretext that he was suffering from "influenza," and that the project had been opposed by his mother.

Tennyson as a Religious Teacher.

Let fools and sensualists say what they will, it is the glory of Browning and Tennyson that in an age which so much puritan literature has defiled with the honey of French realism they did not grope in the foul abysses of human degradation, but ever lifted their eyes to the true grandeur of humanity crowned with spiritual fire. The poets have made life brighter, happier, more hopeful to us by teaching us to see, and how to see, and how to see; by opening our mind to the true, our eyes to the beautiful; by opening our ears to the voices of the mountain and the sea; by quickening our sensibility to the sweet influences of the fields and of the ocean. A thousand things which we should never have noticed, in which we should never have read God's auto-graphs of beauty and of blessing, Tennyson has now taught us to observe with delight and love—the black hudd in spring; the rosy plumelets which taint the leaves; the pure green streaks on the white leaves of the snowdrop; the gummy chestnut buds which glisten in the April blue; the sea wind singing shrill, chill with flakes of foam, the liquid azure bloom of the sea; the Pleiades glittering like fireflies in a silver braided; the little pink, five-headed baby poles the light feet with treacle on the daisies make the meadows rosy; the dragon fly's sapphire flash of living light; the river sloping to plunge in cataract, shattering on black blocks its breath of thunder; Myriads of rivulets hurrying through the land The moan of doves in immemorial elms, And murmur of innumerable fountains.

—[Archdeacon Farrar.

The man who is able to travel extensively can generally learn enough in a year to make a bore of himself all the rest of his life.

ANTIQUE WEAPONS.

Soldiers That Fought Without Firearms.—Their Curious Equipment.

The Greek pike was 24 feet long. The medieval lance was 18 feet. The standard Roman sword was 22 inches. The helmet of Richard I. weighed 25 pounds. The rabbi say Cain killed Abel with a club. David slew Goliath with a sling-stone, B. C. 1063. The cross-bow came into use in the twelfth century. The pully-drawn cross-bow had a range of forty rods. Projecting engines were first invented by the Greeks. Mixed chain and plate armor was used from 1300 to 1410. Gustavus Adolphus abolished all armor but a light cuirass. The French infantry were armed with the pike until 1640. Damascus blades were famous all over the world B. C. 500. The quarrels thrown by cross-bows often weighed six pounds. Shields were not used in England after the reign of Henry VII. The cross-bows of the fourteenth century weighed fifteen pounds. Swords equal to the best ever made are still produced in Toledo. Greek helmets covered the head, back of neck, ears, and nose. The battles of Crecy, Poitiers and Agincourt were won by the archers. The bow appears among the earliest sculptures of Egypt, B. C. 4000. In the seventeenth century German swords were most highly esteemed. Ancient battering rams were manned by 100 or 150 men, generally captives. The double-handed swords of medieval times often weighed 30 pounds. In naval warfare the ancients used grappling-hooks and boarding bridges. Many suits of armor worn in the fourteenth century weighed 175 pounds each. Pliny ascribes the invention of the sling to the Phoenicians, about B. C. 2000. In 1216 heavy cavalry were covered, horse and man, with scale or chain armor. Stone arrow-points and hatchets have been found in every country in the world. Long-bow strings were of plaited silk, and worth five times their weight in gold. At the siege of Jerusalem the Romans had 400 large, and nearly two hundred small catapults. The sabel is an oriental weapon. It was introduced into the French cavalry in 1710. The catapult was invented in Syracuse 406 B. C. in the reign of Dionysius the Elder. The great two-handed sword was, when not in action, carried on the back like a guitar. The sword of Henry the Pious, Duke of Silesia, was six feet long and weighed 30 pounds. The sling was made of woolen stuff, and the slingers always stood behind the infantry. Egyptian bronze swords made B. C. 3200 were from 2 to 3 feet long, with double edge. The Mexican flint knives were made so sharp that they could be used for trimming hair. The shield of Hector, when slung at his back in walking, covered the body from neck to heel. Cross-bowmen were always attended by shield-bearers, who protected them in action. The largest catapults threw beams 6 feet long, weighing sixty pounds, over a quarter of a mile. The legion was formed by Romulus B. C. 720. It originally consisted of 3,000 foot and 300 horse. Some of the wooden towers erected to attack a besieged city were ten stories high, about one hundred feet. Toledo and Damascus blades were very popular in the Middle Ages and sold for their weight in gold. When Cortez invaded Mexico for the second time he had eighty musketeers and eighty cross-bow men. The value of infantry was not fully recognized by medieval commanders until the fifteenth century. The armor of the fourteenth century was so heavy that a fallen knight could not rise without assistance. The long bow was brought into Western Europe in the eighth century; bows were 6 feet long, arrows 3 feet. Knightly lances were from 12 to 20 feet long, the heads 4 to 8 inches broad, and from 12 to 20 inches long. The Amazon Indians use a blowpipe with which they throw an arrow 200 yards with wonderful precision. The misericord was a small dagger with thin blade made to reach the vitals of an antagonist between the joints of the armor. Palmedes, of Argos, was the first commander to array an army in regular line of battle, to place sentinels, or to give a watchword. At 200 feet only the best Spanish armor could resist the English arrow. Many museums have steel corselets pierced through by an arrow. In the fourteenth century armor became so heavy that many soldiers only thirty years old were deformed or permanently disabled by its weight. Mining and counter-mining were extensively practiced during the ancient sieges. The mine was made, the roof supported by timbers; when all was ready the beams were set on fire and the wall caved in. A complete suit of knightly armor contained the helmet, the cuirass for the breast, epauliers for the shoulders; brassards, upper arms; coudieres, elbows; avant-bras, lower arms; gannetles, gloves; fandes for flanks; haubergon, a quilted surcoat; cuissearts, thigh pieces; genouillieres, knee guards; greiviers, leg pieces; soleters, shoes and spurs. On the shield of Achilles, described by Homer, were represented the earth, the sky, the sea, the sun, the moon, all the constellations, two cities with crowds filling the forums and armies besieging a town, besides battles, single combats, rural scenes, harvest scenes, vintage scenes, pictures of home life, dances, cattle herding, lion and bull fighting, and a vast variety of mythological subjects. Too much, "Set 'em up again," is what brings a great many men down.

WORKING ON MOUNTAIN TOPS.

Some Facts Furnished by the Engineers of the New Peruvian Railway.

Some practical facts are furnished by the experience of the workmen engaged in the construction of the new Central Railway over the main range of mountains in Peru. The line starts from Lima, in latitude twelve degrees. The summit tunnel of this line at Galeria is at the height of 15,645 feet, or a little under the height of Mount Blanc, but it must be remembered that the climatic conditions are very different and more unfavourable in Peru than in Europe. Mr. E. Lane, the engineer-in-chief, finds that the workmen up to an altitude of 8,000 or 10,000 feet do about the same relative quantity of work as at sea level, provided they have been inured to the height or brought up in the country. At 12,000 feet the amount of work and at 14,000 to 16,000 a full third has to be deducted from the amount that the same man could perform at sea level. Owing to the absence of malaria the percentage of efficient labor at the greatest elevation is a very high one. Men coming from the coast are not found capable of doing efficient work for about two weeks on an average when taken to high elevations. The capacity gradually increases and reaches its maximum in a few weeks or months according to the constitution of the individual. The majority of the laborers are "Cholos," or Indians born in the Sierras. They are found incapable of doing efficient work on the coasts or in the warmer altitudes without a long course of acclimatization. If gangs of these "Cholos" have for special purposes been taken down suddenly from the Sierra to work at altitudes of from 2,000 to 5,000 feet, sickness and fever have resulted from the change. Mules and horses are found to do about the same efficient work proportionately as human beings up to about 17,000 feet in this district. Mules stand the climate best, but, again, require some weeks of acclimatization, and if urged to undue exertion at great altitudes they are liable to drop dead suddenly. It may be remarked that the region of perpetual snow in the district begins at about 18,000 feet.

A TRAIN ALL ABLAZE.

Many Soldiers Killed by Jumping or Burned to Death.

A St. Petersburg despatch says:—A most peculiar and fatal railway accident occurred today on the line between Slatoustsk and Samara. A train composed of several cars filled with recruits was running at full speed, when flames burst from the foremost car. The fire swept backward, and in a few minutes all the cars were blazing. The engineer for some unaccountable reason did not stop the train until he had run a considerable distance. In the meantime there was a scene of indescribable confusion in the cars. The recruits, or at least as many of them as could do so, leaped from the windows and doors. Some of them landed uninjured in the heavy snow banks, while others who landed on the cleared track were killed. Those who were unable to get out of the cars were burned to death, for the train was entirely consumed. Some of the men were terribly burned before they jumped. When the confusion had somewhat subsided the officer in charge of the recruits, who saved himself by jumping, called the roll of his men. It was found that forty-nine of them were dead and twenty terribly burned and otherwise injured. A strict investigation will be held to determine the cause of the fire. It is supposed now that some of the men in the forward cars were skylarking and upset the stove. The draught caused by the on-rushing train caused the flames to spread with such great rapidity that nothing could be done to extinguish them. It is asserted that the engineer was guilty of criminal negligence in not stopping the train as soon as he saw the fire. Had he done so the loss of life would have been very small.

—[The London Standard.

An Adverse View of Mashonaland.

Lord Headly, who has recently spent six months in Mashonaland, partly, it is stated, in the interests of a syndicate, and partly as the outcome of a desire to see for himself what opening for the investment of capital Mashonaland affords, has confided his impressions to a representative of the Gold Field News. His lordship denounces Mr. Cecil Rhodes and all his works. Mr. Rhodes, we are told, is a man with Napoleonic ideas, but without the ability to carry them out. The government of the company is very unpopular, and the country itself unpromising; whilst the gold scarcely pays to work. The following are a sample of Lord Headly's allegations:—All over the country men are to be met who have absolutely no means of leaving the district, and scarcely shoe leather to cover their feet as they drag out a weary and almost hopeless existence. Throughout the whole country the spectacle is one of complete failure in the administration and even the laird of Rhodesia's faculty for selecting good subordinates is unable to overcome the effects of fundamental error. Whatever subsidised reports may say, there is little doubt that facts prove the country to be a complete fraud in respect of affording any opening for poor men. The regulations of the company are not calculated to induce either rich or poor men to take up ground. The restrictions as to granting of title, which can only be given after a year's occupation, the occupation clause itself, and the powers reserved by the company as to flotation or promotion, are directly opposed to the land being acquired for speculative purposes. At the same time the administration is faulty in other respects.

He Below.

In the purest path of life
 Let us live,
 And be heroes in the strife,
 Who are to give,
 All the conquests we may gain
 To some lonely heart in pain
 Whose brave struggles are in vain
 Here below.
 And foregoing every wrong
 While we stay,
 In the right let us be strong
 Every day,
 In our life's mission hold
 That good deeds are our best gold
 And will live when clay is cold
 Here below.
 Then, dear heart, we'll be content
 Just to do,
 Making life a blessing sent
 Here below;
 All the sin of life efface,
 Giving love in every place,
 Until the Father's shining face
 Smiles below.

There was an excess of 10,000 deaths over births in France during 1891. There has been an almost uninterrupted decrease in the number of births each year since 1881, and the prevention of an actual decline in the total population is attributed to the influx of immigrants. There were 285,000 marriages in 1891, the greatest number since 1884, and 5,752 divorces were granted during the year. The figures are from the official returns just issued.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Vanderbilt has a \$1,000 ship. A year's matches are worth \$1,000,000,000. The speed of a wild duck is ninety miles an hour. In Turkey they call the bicycle the "devil's chariot." A dull season—Tasteless pepper. Women are invariably cloths observers to their sex. The convicted criminal is never allowed to hurry himself. He must take his time. The pirate considers himself a sea king. The detective is generally seeking also. Many a broadcloth husband owes his position to the fact of his marrying a gingham girl. At some of the furnishing stores in Indianapolis, Ind., stockings are darned free of cost. It is becoming fashionable for the bride instead of the bridegroom, to make presents to the bridesmaids. St. Charles, Mo., has been under the dominion of three flags, namely, Spain, France and the United States. Scales in the assay office at Boston are claimed to be so delicate that they indicate the ten-millionth part of a pound. Many a woman who resolves when she is married to make over her husband, ends by being content to make over her bonnets. A locomotive engine, for exhibition at the World's Fair, that will fit into a nutshell, has been made at Chemnitz, Germany. Denmark allows every subject, male or female, who is sixty years of age, a small pension. Only criminals are excepted. A new Methodist Episcopal church is being built at Glasgow, Mont., the nearest church being 267 miles away. A careful old lady in Southwark, Pa., concealed a ten-dollar gold piece in a work-basket which contained some rubbish. A tidy female relative threw out the rubbish, and the gold coin with it. A bridegroom at Hammond, Ind., thought it prudent to begin married life economically. He gave fifty cents to the clergyman who performed the ceremony, and then had the audacity to demand a receipt. Eiffel's plan for a great bridge across the River Neva at St. Petersburg has just been accepted, and the St. Petersburg municipality has voted the twenty-six million rubles required to build it. In 1418 a battle was fought near Milan, in Italy, and so perfect was the armor of both armies that, though the conflict raged from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., no one on either side was either killed or wounded, though one man broke his collar-bone by falling off his horse. A miniature drag has just been finished for an Australian sportsman. As described by a daily paper, it is designed to be a perfect model of an English coach in built entirely of steel and hickory wood, and is to be drawn by a team of 13-hand ponies. It is 6 feet in height, and weighs only 10 cwt. as compared with 20 cwt., the usual weight of a full-sized coach. James Whitcomb Riley, the "Hoosier poet," told a San Francisco reporter that the two keenest regrets of his life are that he is not married, and that he was never well educated. "I do not know of any other regret," he said, "and cannot tell whether a sentence is right or wrong. The only way I judge is whether it seems right or not." Of the holy estate of matrimony, the poet, who is now thirty-eight, said: "It shocks me that I am not married; why, a man without a wife and children enjoys no life. Marriage is the poetry of existence, that is the only way to live. All the rest is artificial." If Mr. Riley did not get a good "schooling" when he was a boy, he had one distinction over his playmates. His father, an eccentric lawyer, put him in long trousers when he was three years old, despite the tearful protest of his mother. Twenty-seven surviving heroes of Balaklava, all that could be found by scouring England, celebrated the thirty-eighth anniversary of that disastrous charge by a banquet at St. James's Hall, in London, recently. It was an interesting assembly of grizzled veterans, all except one in plain clothes, with no suggestion of gold lace about them other than that afforded by the Crimean medals on their breasts. The only one who wore a uniform was gallant Sergeant Fawke, of the Scots Greys, who was twenty-two when he rode into the valley of death, and who at sixty is one of the finest-looking of the Queen's subjects. He gave an exhibition of his amazing strength to the old-timers by cutting bars of lead clean through with one stroke of the sword. The Emperor of China has, by imperial rescript, raised the ancestors for three generations of Sir Halliday Macartney, K.C.M.G., the Secretary to the Chinese Legation in London, to the highest rank in the Chinese mandarinates. This is in accordance with the curious usage of conferring ranks of nobility on ancestors rather than descendants. It is believed that the only other European on whom this strange honor has been bestowed is Sir Robt. Hart, the Inspector-General of Chinese Maritime Customs, whose ancestors were similarly ennobled two years ago. The French just now are not very kindly disposed toward the Prime Minister of Madagascar, though he is perhaps the only man in the world who has the distinction of having been the husband of three Queens. It would seem to be one of the most important duties of the Prime Minister to wed the ruler of his country if that potentate happens to be a Queen. At any rate, the elderly statesman who is the husband of the present Queen, a lady who has not yet reached middle life, was already the husband of her two immediate predecessors or of the throne of the Hovas. He has become so accustomed to guard with jealous care the rights of his royal spouses that he seems to forget the fact that the island is now a French protectorate; and herein lies the grievance of which the French complain. A serious famine prevails in Finland, and advices from several sources state that a large proportion of the inhabitants of that country are perishing near starvation. Two hundred thousand persons of a total population of 2,000,000 are entirely destitute, and before the winter ends it is expected that one-fourth of the whole number of inhabitants will be in a similar sad plight. The Finns have hard work to make a living at the best of times, because of the poor soil and rigorous climate. Last summer the potato and rye crops were either destroyed or seriously damaged by constant night frosts in July, August, and September. Many districts known to be in great distress are now isolated by snow and ice, and in others the inhabitants are existing on bread composed largely or wholly of birch bark. The Finnish Senate has voted several million marks for the relief of the sufferers, and a Government committee is trying to cope with the distress, but it is said further help is urgently needed by the people.