

AN UNFORTUNATE ROOSTER.—There are objections to Shanghaies, no doubt, but we had never thought of this. It is very curious but it is true. The way of it was this: Mr. S——, an old resident of Stillwater, on the upper Hudson, introduced among his family of hens a few Shanghaies, including a rooster, of formidable dimensions, who had "run to legs" a good deal. His crow was peculiar and easily distinguished from that of other cocks. One morning he had wanted to hear a repetition of the usual summons, after being aroused by the "shrill clarion" once sounded, but he heard it not again. The other roosters were doing their best, but the pre-eminent chanicleer was still. Mr. S—— went out to see what had caused the silence. He found the rooster lying on his back, with both legs out of joint. After an examination, he set both legs; the cock walked off, and gave vent to his satisfaction in a lusty crow. In the very act he dropped as if he had been shot. He had crowded his legs out of joint again! He was kept three or four days, and then killed. "It was too much trouble," said Mr. S. "to set him up every time he crows!"—*Knickerbocker Mag.*

A HORSE CHARMER.—On the voyage to England the *Sinlu* experienced some heavy weather in the Bay of Biscay, in which the horses suffered severely, and some, including a charger of General Scarlett, became unmanageable. A valuable mare was so bad that a pistol was got ready to shoot her to end her misery, when a Russian officer recommended a Co-sack prisoner to be sent for, as he was a "jugg'er," and could, by charms, cure any malady in a horse. He was sent for, and immediately said he could cure it at once. He was closely watched, but the only thing they could observe him to do was to take kissash oil, and tie a knot in it three several times. However, the mare in a few minutes got on her feet and began to eat heartily, and rapidly recovered.

HOW TO DETERMINE THE CAPACITY OF CISTERNS.—Square the diameter in feet, multiply by the decimal .7854; multiply this product by the depth in feet of the cistern—this will give the number of cubic feet of water it is capable of containing. Multiply by 1828, and you have the cubic inches, which divide by 231, the number of cubic inches in a gallon, and the result will be the number of gallons. Suppose the diameter of a circular cistern be 10 feet, the square of this is 100; multiply it by the decimal .7854, which will give 78.54 ft., which multiplied by the depth of the cistern, 12 feet, gives 942.48 cubic feet as the whole contents, which of course may be brought into gallons by the rule above given.

ORIGIN OF THE HONEYMOON.—There is the honeymoon now, was there ever such a silly word as that? Minister said, the Dutch at New Amsterdam, as they used to call New York, brought out the word to America, for all the friends of the new married couple in Holland did nothing for a whole month, but smoke, drink metheglin (a tipple made of honey and gin), and they call that bender the honeymoon; since then the word has remained, though metheglin is forgotten for something better.—*Sam Slick's Nature and Human Nature.*

A MEANS of impregnating silk with gold, silver, brass or iron, so that it can be woven with perfect flexibility, has recently been discovered by a chemist in France.

MR. GREELEY, in his letters from Europe, says the silk manufacturers of France were never more busy or more prosperous than at the present time.

In London there are fifty "King" streets, fifty "Queen" streets, and sixty "John" streets.

REPEATED MELTINGS OF CAST IRON.—From careful experiments made by William Fairbairn, of Manchester, it was ascertained that the strength of iron increased with each successive melting, up to the twelfth or thirteenth trial, after which it diminished in strength. One ton of hotblast iron was experimented upon, and the quantities of coal and flux noted at each trial. Care was taken that the cooling and mode of pouring should be in each case alike, so as not to affect the result. The iron was run into bars of one inch square, and lengths of seven feet, were supported at each end and weights applied until the bar broke. The breaking weight at the commencement was 403 lbs.; at the 12th melting, 672 lbs.; at the 13th, 671 lbs.; at the 15th, 391 lbs.; at the 16th, 363 lbs.; and at the 17th melting, 330 lbs. In the fracture made after the 15th melting, there was a bright rim, like silver, surrounding the interior, which was of the usual crystalline structure. This silvery fracture extended in the 16th and 17th specimens, until it pervaded the mass, which then resembled cast steel.

ENDLESS RAILWAY.—For some time past Boydell and Glasier's patent wheels have been undergoing the severest of experiment at Woolwich, and in every case with the greatest success. Also in the early part of Christmas week the above firm had the honour of experimenting with a horse and cart furnished with their wheels in Windsor Park before His Royal Highness Prince Albert, with equally satisfactory results. These trials having reference to military rather than agricultural affairs, we conceive it would be highly injudicious to enter upon the details of what we saw at Woolwich in the present exigencies of the country; suffice it to say, that the problem of an endless railway, at the slow pace of farm horses, has been practically solved. No landlord now need any longer complain of having his woods, ridings, park, and pleasure-ground cut up, and teams destroyed, in the drawing of timber, or any thing.—*Manchester Express.*

INN SIGNS.—The Bell was formerly the usual prize at races. A small gold bell was the prize at York races in 1807; and a bell was one of the prizes at Chester races down to the last century. "To bear away the bell" would then be synonymous "with winning the cup," in more modern times. The Flowerpot was originally the lily vase, represented by the side of the angel Gabriel, in mediæval pictures of the Salutation of the Virgin. The Three Crowns were emblematical of the three kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland. The "Three Balls" of the pawnbrokers were the arms of the Lombards who came from Italy, settled in Lombard street, and were the first money lenders or pawnbrokers—their trading sign being three bezants or Byzantine gold coins in currency about the time of the Crusades. Our modern pawnbrokers have taken these three obsolete gold coins, as painted on the plane surface, to be golden balls.—*Beaufoy.*

YOUTHFUL NEGLIGENCE.—Walter Scott, in a narrative of his personal history, gives the following caution to youth:—"If it should ever fall to the lot of youth to peruse these pages, let such readers remember that it is with the deepest regret that I recollect in my manhood the opportunities of learning which I neglected in my youth; that through every part of my literary career I have felt pinched and hampered by my own ignorance; and I would at this moment give half the reputation I have had the good fortune to acquire, if by doing so, I could rest the remaining part upon a sound foundation of learning and science."