FARM AND GARDEN.

English Agriculture.

There is room in the world for all. The broadest competition should engender no feeling of gratification at the reverses of a rival. Therefore it is a matter of regret to notice the unsatisfactory, not to say disastrous, condition of English agriculture. English journals are filled with complaints and forebodings of evil. Agriculture was never in so depressed a condition. Rents are unpaid; farms go a-begging; the owners cannot work them; and tenants cannot make enough out of them to pay for labor and for rent. The English farmers are deluged under a flood of American products. The cheap lands of this great continent and our free system of labor—in which we include the privilege to work without losing caste as a gentleman—have borne the fruit which has been so long a-ripening; and our unfortunate rivals across the water are no longer able to compete with us. The gates are now broken down. Our exports are flowing abroad nearly at the rate of one million dollars each day, over and above the amount of imports. This result is the inevitable effect of a law which no man or nation can set aside. We could not help it if we would. The best we can do is to offer to our rivals a position by our side where they can share our advantages. Here is room for all. There, the balance is disturbed; here it is suspended evenly and is not likely to be disturbed until our broad fields and plains are fully occupied. And this cannot occur for a century, perhaps for several of them to come.—*Rural New Yorker.*

Colors in the Flower Bed.

Much of the beauty of a flower bed depends on such an arrangement of the colors as will secure a harmonious effect. It is very much as with a tasteful selection of colors for a lady's outfit. Some with expensive material always fail to produce a pleasing impression for want of taste and judgment as to colors; so with a flower bed. Costly plants are often got, and yet the bed does not look pretty. Among the rules to be observed are the following:

1. Avoid placing rose-colored next to scarlet, orange or violet.
2. Do not place orange next to yellow, nor blue next to violet.
3. White relieves any color, but do not place it next to yellow.
4. Orange goes well with blue, and yellow with violet.
5. Rose color and purple always go well together.

Spare the Trees.

Two facts confront us and deserve serious consideration. The forests of the world are going, just as the coal beneath our feet is going—man is a cooking animal, and must have fuel. In all the great outlets of water floods multiply, and become more and more destructive. We are compelled to ask if there is any necessary, or perhaps obvious, connection between the two facts. Undoubtedly there is, and one of the most simple nature; and one, moreover, that plainly teaches that the more the earth is stripped of its natural clothing in the shape of arborescent vegetation, the more and more will it become unfit for human habitation and a bleak and howling wilderness. If the race of men wish to hold their place on the planet, therefore, they will do well to preserve a reasonable extent of forest; and, at all events, they may to their own advantage occasionally plant for posterity, because while the trees are growing they will moderate the floods somehow or other. The utterly selfish system will not pay. In proportion as the forests are destroyed, human life will be demuded of its joys in times when danger does not threaten; and when threatening begins in respect of torrrents and flood, it will simply be exposed to such tremendous risks that it becomes a fair speculation that water and not fire will make an end of the race of men.

Raising Pigs.

The most important thing for the swine breeder at this season of the year is to get the greatest possible growth from the spring pigs. There is no period in the life of the hog when so great a return for the food consumed is possible as during the first six months, and it is here that the advantage of skilful feeding is apparent. Unless great care be taken, the growth of the pig will be seriously checked when it is from three to five weeks old. The milk of the dam, which was ample to promote a rapid growth in the litter of pigs during the first two or three weeks, is not sufficient to answer the demands of the same litter as they grow older; hence the pigs should early be taught to look elsewhere for a part of their sustenance. This is an easy matter; a little milk or nutritious food of any kind, in liquid form, placed conveniently by, where the pigs can have access to it at all times, but beyond the reach of the sow, will soon do the work; and it should be replenished frequently through the day. If this is attended to, there will be no 'stunting' of the pigs at this critical period, and their growth will be uniform and rapid. A good clover pasture is a valuable adjunct, and helps wonderfully. The true secret of successful pork making is to *push* the pig from the date of birth until it is big enough for the market; and the earlier the age at which this point can be reached, the greater is the return for the food consumed.

A slop made of corn and oats, ground in about equal parts, with a little oat meal added, makes the best food for the sow while suckling, to increase the flow of milk; and this, with clover pasture and plenty of soaked corn during the summer, will promote a rapid and healthy growth of the pigs.

Clover as a Weed Exterminator.

Among its other excellencies, clover is a good weed exterminator. When it is thick, as it should be, it smothers down a great many noxious plants, and if cut at the proper time, not a weed will have a chance to ripen its seed. For both these reasons it is hard on the Canada thistles, and I verily believe a course of clovering will be found about as effectual a remedy as can be devised against that worst of vegetable pests.

Blackberries and Raspberries.

See that the fruiting canes are properly tied up to the stakes or trellis. The young shoots now growing will form canes for the next year's fruiting, and should be attended to. Cut away all except 3 to 5 on each stool, and tie these to the support as soon as old enough. The young ones should be pinched off at 4 feet for raspberries and 6 feet for blackberries. Cut away the old canes after fruiting is past.

Hints About the Setting of Hens.

The *American Poultry Journal and Record* strongly recommends that a hen's nest for hatching should be made in a bottomless box on the ground, saying that it would a surprise raisers to know how large a number of eggs fail to hatch out their young on account of the lack of moisture produced by the warmth of the hen when the chicks are almost ready to come forth. The same authority says:—"When the weather is bad, and the chicks appear to be suffering much, the food may be seasoned with pepper, with the addition of tincture of iron to the water. Warm milk should also be given to drink."

Profits of Poultry Keeking.

A correspondent of the *Poultry World* gives "facts and figures," as follows, to show that poultry pays:—

"One of my neighbors has for several years been experimenting largely in poultry. His stock consists of White and Brown Leghorns and Light Brahmas. He started at the commencement of last year with 108 fowls. He kept an accurate account of the receipts and expenditures. They produced 7,879 eggs. His total receipts in eleven months for eggs and fowls sold, adding what he had consumed, amounted to $244.96; cost of feed and other expenses, $117.85; leaving a clear profit of $127.11. He had 98 fowls on hand Dec. 1st., which he considers worth more than the 108 fowls he had at the commencement of the year. He has a pair of Light Brahmas that weigh 26½ pounds. Keeps his fowls shut up the year round. Has a large hennery, the house fronting the south. Gives a variety of food, such as corn, oats, buckwheat, all in grain, and wheat screenings, course feed and corn meal. Also feeds once a day with beef scraps, and three times a week with onions and turnips chopped together."

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL'S DEATH

Report of Lieut. Carey, Who Has Been Court-Martialed for not Taking Care of Him.

The London papers of June 30th have accounts from their correspondents at the Cape of the details of the Prince Imperial's taking off. The *Times* correspondent gives the following as the substance of Lieut. Carey's report:

"Having learned that his Imperial Highness would proceed on June 1st to reconnoitre the country in advance of the column and choose a site for the camp on the following day, I suggested that as I had already ridden over the same ground, I should accompany him. My request was granted; but at the same time, Col. Harrison, Acting Quartermaster-General, stated that I was not in any way to interfere with the Prince, as he wished him to have the entire credit of choosing the camp. Shortly before starting, I found that no escort was prepared, and applied to the Brigade-Major of Cavalry. I received the necessary orders, and at 9:15 six men of Capt. Bettington's Horse paraded before headquarters. With these and a friendly Zulu, provided by the Hon. Mr. Drummond, we started. Six Basutos of Capt. Shepstone's corps were also under orders to proceed with us, and before crossing the Blood River, I sent on to him to ask for them The messenger returned to say that they would meet us on the ridge between the Incenzi and Irelezi Hills. I again sent the man to bring the escort back with him. On our right and left flanks I saw large bodies of Basutos scouting. Arrived upon the ridge, we dismounted, wishing to fix the position of some hills with our compasses. Col. Harrison then rode up and told us that General Marshall's cavalry was coming up. When he had left I suggested to the Prince to wait for the remainder of the escort. 'Oh, no; we are quite strong enough.' At a mile and a half we ascended a commanding and rocky range of hills beyond Ityotozi River. I proposed that we should here off-saddle near the river. We remained for half an hour sketching and surveying the country with our telescopes. Seeing no one, we descended to a kraal in a valley below and off-saddled. No precautions were taken, as no Zulus were expected to be in the neighborhood. The Prince was tired, and lay down beside a hut. The men made coffee, and I reconnoitered with my telescope. At 3 35 I suggested saddling up. His Imperial Highness said, "Wait another ten minutes"; but in five minutes gave me the necessary order. I repeated it, and then went to fetch my horse from the mealie-fields. I had saddled and mounted on the home side of the kraal, when I heard his Imperial Highness give the order, 'Prepare to mount.' I looked round and saw his foot in the stirrup. At the same time I said 'Mount,' and as the men vaulted into the saddles I saw the black faces of Zulus about twenty yards off, rushing towards us through the mealie-fields. They shouted and fired upon us as we rode off. I thought that all were mounted, and knowing that the men's carbines were unloaded I judged it was better to clear the long grass before making a stand. Knowing from experience the bad shooting of the Zulus, I did not expect that anyone was injured. I therefore shouted as we neared the donga, 'We must form up on the other side. See to the retreat of everyone.' On looking back I saw one party following us, while another on our left was attempting to cut off our retreat across the ridge. Meanwhile we were under a heavy fire, and after we had crossed the donga a man said to me, 'I fear the Prince is killed, sir.' I paused, looked back, and seeing the Prince's horse galloping on the other side of the donga, asked if it was any use returning. The Zulus had already passed over the ground where he must have fallen, and he pointed out the men creeping round our left. I paused for our men to come up, and then galloped on to find a drift over the Tombocto River."

OUR SPECIAL COLUMN.

LITERARY.

Journalism in England has adopted a new feature, and rather a taking one for the papers which have come under its influence. It is this: Every Saturday's issue of certain journals contains a story written by a well-known novelist, to whom each publisher pays a stipulated sum. Wilkie Collins and William Black have been engaged among others. But a more startling innovation in English journalism is the new system of interviewing. The Whitehall *Review* has selected certain well known literary and political writers to obtain the views of all the leading public men of the day, and even the King of Italy has been drawn into the net through the agency of a diplomat. In this way the eminent men of all countries will be brought under subjection to the leading English society journals.

The International Literary Congress, presided over by Victor Hugo, met in London, England, on the 9th of June. America, Germany, Spain, Austria, Holland, Sweden, France and Portugal were represented, and among those present were many literary ladies. The opening speech was delivered by M. About, followed by Blanchard Jerrold. The delegates dined with the Lord Mayor, and visited Shakespeare's birthplace by invitation from the Mayor of Stratford-on-Avon.

"George Eliot's" last novel, "Theophrastus Such," has disappointed the author's admirers in England, and the opinion is expressed that the book will not add to the lady's reputatoin.

Miss Florence Marryatt is writing a new novel. She married some time since, but obtained a divorce from her husband, Col. Ross-Church, as we mentioned at the time, and she has recently been married to Lieut.-Col. Lean.

The new papers recently started in London are *Life*, a society paper; the *Mask*, a dramatic and literary journal revived; *Sketch*, a new paper of the same class; the *British Empire*, devoted to reciprocity in trade; and the *Referee*, a Sunday paper.

Harrison Ainsworth is to the fore again. His new work is "Beau Nash."

Stoddard, the American poet, has gone to the country, where he will spend the summer.

The Life and Letters of Charles Mathews, the great English comedian, will soon appear.

Walt Whitman, has found his way back from the crowded American metropolis to his quiet home by the sea.

The much abused "penny-a-liner," as he is called in England, has found a defender in the *University Magazine*. It is well understood that the individual answering to the name alluded to is a picker up of paragraphs for the newspapers; that he does not constitute any part of the regular newspaper staff, and is paid a penny a line for all the credible news he furnishes. He has been frequently denounced for blunders he never committed, and accused of getting up sensational paragraphs for the sake of the pay. The *University* says the "penny-a-liner" can well afford to laugh at the witticisms uttered at his expense, because his profession is both honorable and lucrative. He is free to do as he likes, and what he writes must be paid for if accepted, as it is pretty sure to be, for news of the kind is valuable, and newspaper publishers are only too glad to have some one to assist their regular reporters. It is known that the "penny-a-liner" also finds employment in corresponding with country newspapers.

Prof. Shairp, in his recent criticism on Burns, speaks of the Ayrshire poet as having a sort of intuitive knowledge of the great politicians of his day. It is well known that Burns was strongly inclined to republicanism, yet a truer patriot never breathed, as witness his short poem on the threatened French invasion. Of the public men of Great Britain, however, he had no desire to say a word of praise. Pitt had his aversion and he sung of Fox as "yon ill-tongued tinkler Charlie Fox." A famous Scotchman he designated as

"That slee farrea chiel Dundas,

and another he characterized as:

"That glib gabbit Highland baron, the Laird o' Graham."

Prof. Shairp avers that Burns touched the characters of those men as truly as if they had all been his own familiars, and yet he had no acquaintance with them.

Among the most extraordinary men of his time was Prof. John Wilson, the "Christopher North" of *Blackwood's Magazine*. Not long after his marriage he lost his entire fortune, but he did not repine. He retired to the vicinity of the Cumberland Lakes, and there taking a cottage settled down to a literary life, and by his labors achieved his object in placing himself in comfortable circumstances. His writings will last as long as the English language for his criticisms are unequalled. As an essayist he was grand, and as a humorist his "Notes Ambrosianæ," bear testimony that he stood in the front ranks. Had Wilson not become impoverished in all probability he would not have written as he did, because it was a competency he labored for.

Dean Stanley has offended the Americans just as much by not writing a book about the United States as if he had written one. It is the reason he assigns for not doing so. He says "he has too much respect for his own peace of mind to risk offending, so thin-skinned and sensitive a society as his entertainers in America are.

There is something worth thinking over in these few smooth lines, which come from an anonymous source:

Stay, sweet day, for thou art fair,
Fair, and full, and calm;
Crowned through all thy golden hours
With love's freshest, purest flowers,
Strong in Faith's unshaken powers,
Rich in Hope's bright balm.

Stay, what chance and change may wait,
As you glide away;
Now is all so glad and bright,
Now we breathe in sure delight!
Now we smile in Fate's despite
Stay with us, sweet day.

Ah! she cannot, may not stop;
All things must decay;
So with head, and heart, and will,
Take the joy that lingers still,
Take the pause in strife and ill,
Prize the passing day.

Among recent deaths is that of Mr. G.W.M. Reynolds, a somewhat notable individual of a rare school of fichtionists in England. His "Mysterires of London "had an immense run and his more immoral work, "The mysteries of the Court of London," placed him beyond the pale of recognition by the best set of contemporary writers. It may be said in externuation of the alleged coarseness of Mr. Reynolds, that he denies having written some of the worst of the publications bearing his name. His was the blood and thunder style, and he was the most extreme of Radicals in his political views. It is to be regretted that his name is not in the list of the great galaxy of England's best and ablest writers.

MRS. COLTON'S DIARY.

The Utterances of a Woman's Breaking Heart.

Two ordinary note-books, in which Mrs. Josephine A. Colton, of No. 216 Chrystie street, recorded her troubles before she shot herself, were in the coroner's office this morning and were objects of much curiosity. The entries in the books reveal a sad story. The first volume is headed "Memorandum of my daily life," beginning with September 1, 1877. The first entry reads as follows: "My old diary is full. I am sorry. I like old things, old friends, old associations; but, like all earthly things, they pass away. I think these little memorandums help us to lead better lives. At the end of the week, when I read over the pages, I am ashamed of my shortcomings, and make good resolves for the future." Following this are memoranda for nearly every day until April 13, when the account book was full. The memoranda for the most part relate to trival incidents of her life, but they tell the story of her gradual desertion by her husband. She writes in some places that her husband has slandered her, that he has absented himself from her, and at 1st she writes that he has nearly deserted her. On begining to fill a second volume on April 29, 1879, she wrote: "Well, again my dairy is filled, and oh! how sad are its records! There has not been one ray of sunshine to tell to its sad pages. Oh! can it be that the heart can stand so much and not break! I have seen him but twice since the 18, and it is better so. Oh! why should my heart cling to this man so! O God, tear his image from my heart and give me peace of mind. God forgive you, William, if you drive me to my death, for you have much need to pray."

On the next day, April 30, she writes: "I have answered an advertisement by a lady who wishes a lady to share her rooms and do light housekeeping. She has been to see me and I rather like her." She did not write in the diary again until May 11, when she refers again to her husband's infidelity.

The last entry is dated June 22. "I have not touched my book since May 11. How many changes have been since then. My life, the last year, has been one continued round of sadness and ill-luck. I often wonder if my spirit can rest after death. Oh! William, my husband, you have wrecked my life, but I forgive you. If your conscience lets you rest I am satisfied."—*New York Evening Post.*

THE LEWISTON BRIDGE.

A New Through Route—Advantages to the G. W. R.

The following article, relative to the bridge proposed to be constructed across Niagara River at Lewiston, and the new through route, which, with the aid of the bridge, it is said the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburgh and the Great Western Railway will form, is from the *Oswego Palladium*:

The negotiations which have been for some time pending between the R., W. & O. and Great Western Railroad companies, and the Lewiston and Queenston Bridge Company, for the construction of a railroad bridge across the Niagara River at Lewiston were consummated at a meeting held at the latter place Tuesday, and a new bridge company was formed with a capital of $1,000,000.

Some years ago a company known as the Lewiston and Queenston Bridge Company was chartered to build a bridge at that point. The capital stock was $50,000, all of which was paid in, and the rights of way and approaches to the proposed location secured. The occasion for such a bridge did not then arise, and it was never built. The company, however, continued in existence and in possession of its franchises.

The Lake Shore division of the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg Railroad, being that part extending from Richland on the eastern line of Oswego county, the point of connection with the old main line to Lewiston, has, as everyone knows, always been crippled by inability to make any independent western connections at the Niagara River, while its eastern or New York and New England connections were good. Some time ago, there is every reason to believe, and in fact very soon after the present management of the R., W. & O. R. Co. came into possession, this company undertook various means to repair this great defect in their line in order to enable it to fulfil the original intention of becoming a successful competitor for through business. A month or more ago some of the English Board of Directors who manage the Great Western Railway came into this country empowered to conclude various pending questions affecting Great Western interests, and among which was the organization of a company to build a bridge at Lewiston and connect the Great Western therewith. Rights of way have been obtained and surveys made of a line from Thorold or Merritton on the Great Western to the Canadian side of the proposed bridge, being about six miles, which track the Great Western will build, and thus with the bridge and R., W. & O. R. R., it will become part of an important and substantially independent east and west line.

As said above, on Tuesday pending negotiations as to those subjects were closed and a new company organized and officers elected, whose names, however, it is impossible at present to ascertain. The bridge will be a suspension bridge, we suppose, and its estimated cost is about $300,000. The bridge company will be known on the American side as the R. W., & O. Bridge Company, and on the Canadian side as the Great Western Bridge Company. The details of the arrangement, as to how the interests unite or contribute in the new company, are not public. The old Lewiston & Queenston Bridge Company, however, is understood to be represented in the new organization, its $50,000 of stock going in at 50 cents on the dollar.

It is understood that the Great Western will build its six miles of connecting track at once, and that the construction of the bridge will commence as soon as plans can be made and adopted and the contract let. The span of the river at that point is about 800 feet.

The question, what will be the effect of this arrangement, is important, and can but be determined by actual results. The immediate practical result, however, will be that there will be a new route open from Chicago to Boston and all northern New England by the R., W. & O. R.'s connection with the Vermont Central at Rouse's Point, absolutely independent of all existing lines, and which it may fairly be expected, being on an equal or better footing as to grades and distance, will do the business of that section which now comes over the New York Central and Boston and Albany. It will convert the R., W. & O. R., without doubt, into an important through local freight thoroughfare, and to some degree justify the great expenditure of money in the construction of the road. What the effect may be on New York business, if any, is a question for the future and for future possible new connections. Before a year hence, then, one dream of Oswego will be realized—she will be on a through all rail route from Chicago to Boston without any further effort on her part.

MOST WONDERFUL INVENTION.

Mr. Edison, the indefatigable inventor, has recently constructed a machine which he calls the motograph. It performs many wonderful feats, one of which is the "annihilation of distance." Every man should have one in his house, so that when it is too rainy to go to the theatre or to indulge in any other rational amusement, he can lie on his lounge and watch his motograph annihilate the distance between his home and Zululand. A man duly equipped with a motograph would be a power. If, for instance, he should commit a murder, or be guilty of any other act inconsistent with the dignity of a well-meaning citizen, and the police should give chase, all he would be obliged to do would be to annihilate the distance between this country and Madrid and step from New York right into Spain, a country with which, at the present time, we have no extradition treaty. Then if the police should even step there also before he could "unannihilate" the distance, he could laugh to scorn their efforts to arrest him. With the motograph you can talk to a person fifty miles off. This will enable a lady at the seaside to converse with her neighbors in the city, and thus keep up the even tenor of her gossip while she drinks the saline breezes of the sea. This will place Mr. Edison's latest invention far above the sewing machine in the average female mind. The next engine which the erratic scientist of Menlo Park will thrust upon the world puzzles all conjecture, but it will probably be something which can be placed in saw-mills, and convert the horrible discord of the same into the divinest of operatic airs.—*N. Y. Sun.*

—The late Capt. Pratt, of Essex, Conn., left in his will $100,000 in trust for a school for children of Congregational Church members.

THE ORANGE DELEGATES.

Sketch of the Distinguished Irishmen about to Visit Hamilton.

As it is likely that Mr. William Johnston, late M. P. for Belfast, Ireland, and Mr. Hunt W. Chambre, the Orange delegates, will visit Hamilton and address a mass meeting, the following historical sketch may not be out of place:

MR. JOHNSTON.

This is Mr. Johnston's second visit to Canada, the last being in July, 1872, when he met with receptions in all the leading towns of the Province. Mr. Johnston is one of the sons of the late John B. Johnston, Esq., whose estate at Ballykilbeg, county Down, Mr. Johnston inherited. He was born on the 22nd of February, 1829. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, where he took his B. A. degree in 1852 and that of M. A. four years later. He is the author of a number of historical and other novels, among which may be mentioned, "Nightshade," "Under which King?" and "Freshfield." Mr. Johnston has for many years been prominently connected with the Orange Order, which, however, does not prevent his being a man of liberal sentiments. To his indefatigable perseverance and personal self-sacrifice may be attributed the degree of freedom now enjoyed by Orangemen in Ireland. Mr. Johnston was called to the Bar a few years ago, but did not follow up the profession, which is by no means an uncommon position for Irish and English gentlemen to take. In 1868 he was elected for Belfast by an immense majority, and again at the general election of 1874, which position he resigned some time ago, when he accepted an office under the Crown.

Burke's *Landed Irish Gentry* informs us that the family is of Scottish origin. "There is a tradition," says Burke, "that the first named William Johnston's brother went to Norfolk, Virginia, to institute researches with reference to a claim to the Annandale peerage." Further on we read: "William Johnston, of Killough, married Ann, daughter of Matthew Brett, Esq., son of the Rev. Jasper Brett, Prebendary of Rasharkin and Chancellor of Connor, by his wife, daughter of John McNeil, Dean of Down, and Lucretia, his wife, daughter of Francis Marsh, Archbishop of Dublin, cousin of Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon. The son and heir of the marriage of William Johnston and Ann Brett, his wife, was William Johnston, . . . whose son was William Johnston, of Ballykilbeg." John Brett Johnston, the father of Mr. Johnston, now in Toronto, was the son of the last named William Johnston. Mr. Johnston's present wife is the youngest daughter of Sir John Hay, Baronet, of Park, Scotland. His youngest sister was married in 1864 to Sir Arthur Graham Hay, Baronet.

MR. CHAMBRE.

From Burke's *Landed Gentry of Ireland* we learn that Mr. Chambre, of Stewartstown House, county Tyrone, is a son of Hunt Walsh Chambre, Esq., and that his mother was from a branch of Lord Templeton's family. The senior Mr. Chambre was for some time High Sheriff of the county of Tyrone. In 1860 Mr. Chambre married one of the sisters of Mr. William Johnston, of Ballykilbeg.

HAS EDISON FAILED?

(New York Corr. Philadelphia Press.)

The declaration of Edison that he could light all our cities now with electricity if he could find a big mine of platinum is believed to be only a method of covering his retreat. It is probably true that his burners would cost $10 to $15 apiece if made of platinum, but gentlemen in this city who are perfectly familiar with all that is going on at Menlo Park do not believe the cost of this metal is the trouble which Edison now encounters. In spite of all that Edison allows to be made known, and in spite of the fact that he claims so have his invention covered by patents, he does not dare yet to give a public exhibition of his light, because his regulator cannot be depended upon, and he is afraid that his lamps will melt in the presence of the public, and the exhibition would demonstrate his failure, and not his success. Edison has never yet given an exhibition of his light. The Fuller people, who have a platinum burner illuminated by an induction coil, have never permitted anybody to see their light in operation either, and practically they have ceased to experiment with the light. The trouble is the old one, the lamp melts. While the platinum lamps would be costly, it is evident that first cost would be no drawback, because if as much money could be saved by the electric light as Edison claims, it would be cheaper in the long run to use it, even if the lamps cost $12 apiece. The electricians here say that gas chandeliers cost more than candlesticks, yet that has not prevented gas from coming into vogue.

THE ORIGIN OF CROQUET.

Croquet players, who are again indulging in their favorite and fashionable sport, will be interested in the origin of the game. Croquet is not, as many suppose, of modern birth, but may be traced through its various stages to Persia as far back as the eighth century. Its origin was polo, which the Persians played with a long handled mallet called *chugan*. In the ninth century the game made its way into the Eastern empire, the original mallet changing its form to a long staff, ending in a broad bend filled with a network of gut strings. "Thus," says a writer on the subject, "there appeared in the East, as belonging to the great sport of ball play on horseback, the first-shapes of two implements which remodeled the whole play of medieval modern Europe, the *chugan* being the ancestor of the mallets used in croquet and of an endless variety of other playing clubs and bats, while the bent staff, with its net-work, was a primitive racket."

We find that the original ball games in which sticks were used were played on horseback, and instead of polo being an outgrowth of these sports played on foot, the latter are the changes made in the Persian game of *chugan*, which, as has been said, was the parent of our games in which artificial means are used to propel the ball.

The translation from the *chugan* of Persia to the short-handled mallet used on foot was easy and natural, and the substitution of a club came by gradual stages, the hand being probably the original implement which was superseded by a rounded stick.

SAFETY FROM LIGHTNING.

It is never too soon to go in the house when a storm is rising. When the clouds are fully charged with electricity they are most dangerous, and this fluid obeys a subtle attraction which acts at great distances and in all directions. A woman told me of a bolt which came down her mother's chimney from a rising cloud when the sun was shining overhead. N. P. Willis writes of a young girl killed while passing under a telegraph wire on the brow of a hill while she was hurrying home before a storm. People should not be foolhardy about sitting on the porches or by open windows, whether the storm is hard or not. Mild showers often carry a single charge which falls with deadly effect. It may or may not be fatal to stay out; it is safe to be in the house, with the windows and doors shut. The dry air is a readier conductor of the lightning than the damp air outside, and a draft of air invites it. A hot fire in a chimney attracts it, so to speak. People are very ignorant and reckless about lightning. I have seen a girl of 18 crying for fear of lightning, and running every other moment to the window to see if the storm was not abating, unconscious that she was putting herself in danger. If every one would hurry to shelter as soon as a storm cloud was half way up the sky, when certain it was coming nearer, if they would shut the doors and windows, and keep away from them afterward, and from bell wires, stove pipes, mantels, chimney breasts, heaters and mirrors, with their silvered backs which carry electricity, and keep away from lightning rods and their vicinity, and from metal water-spouts, they might dismiss the fear of lightning from their minds, so far as it is a thing of reason and not of impression.—*New York Sun.*

DYES FROM CABBAGE.

The *Revue Bordelaise* states that a whole series of dyes has been extracted from red cabbage (brocoli) by a chemist of Bordeaux. The process is very simple; the veins are extracted, and the cabbage, which is cut into fine pieces, is put into boiling water in the proportion of 1,500 grammes of the leaves to three litres of water. The infusion is then allowed to macerate during twenty-four hours. The leaves are afterward subjected to pressure, and the juice mixed with the liquid. A violetish blue is thus obtained, which the inventor terms *cauline*, and which forms the base of the various derivatives. A light green for immediate application can be obtained by adding two grammes of baryta to 300 do. of the cauline. A bluish green is produced by adding 108 grammes of the chloride of calcium to 500 grammes of the cauline; an ultramarine blue, by adding 40 grammes of chloride of zinc and 25 do. of chloride of sulphur to 500 grammes of the base.

OLD WORLD ITEMS.

Scotland.

The coal trade of Fife has seriously fallen off since the termination of the Dunham strike.

Cromarty is truly a wonderful county when the parliamentary register contains only 87 names.

A Committee of the Town Council of Edinburgh has recommended that football be prohibited.

The German residents in Edinburgh made the anniversary of the Emperor's golden wedding the occasion of a grand fete.

The Scottish Football Association have apportioned £555 among the Glasgow charities. Since 1876 the Association has given to charities upwards of £1,545.

Sir P. Murray Thriepland, who allowed his Carse tenants an abatement of 20 per cent. off crop in 1877, has this year again recognized tenants' losses through low prices of crop in 1878, by returning 10 per cent.

The results of the last call on the shareholders of the City of Glasgow Bank have turned out so satisfactorily that the liquidators believe they will now be able to meet all the engagements of the bank with the funds in their hands.

It has been reported to the Banffshire Local Authority that pleuro-pneumonia has been stamped out at the farms of Ardfour, Inverkeithing, and Williamston, Fordyce, so that Banffshire is in the meantime free of cattle and sheep disease.

On the 11th inst., about three o'clock Mr. David Melvin and Mr. Robert Proctor left Alloa on bicycles, and that evening reached Balloch, a distance of 37 miles. Next morning they went up by Loch Lomond to Crainlerich, and from there to Lockhearn, Callander, etc., reaching Alloa about 8 o'clock on Thursday evening. The distance covered by the two gentlemen was 122 miles.

While Mr. Miller, architect, was at Castle Grant one day last week he noticed in the court, close by the side of the east wall, a small hole. Turning over one of a row of flat oblong scooped granite slabs lying along the side of the wall he found that the little hole led down into a well, to all appearances some thirty or forty feet deep, from eighteen inches to two feet wide, and built all round. Across the mouth lay a piece of metal, not complete, with two figures raised on its surface. Mr. Miller then went into the Castle, where he could get lower down and come nearer the surface of the water. On removing a stone in the floor of the larder, he found the water even there. The water was quite clear and fresh.

The Earl of Caithness, who was here a short time ago, thinks Canada the finest country in the world. The Earl is a good mechanic, and, it will be remembered, drove the locomotive of the train at the Prince and Princess of Wales' marriage. He also constructed a steam road coach which he drove from London to Caithness. It was thought that the coach would be entirely useless, but the practical earl took out the engine and set it to work pumping water at his quarries.

The last survivor of the nieces of Sir Walter Scott, of Abbotsford, has just passed away at the age of 68. The lady was Mrs. Elizabeth Charlotte Peat, widow of Major Alexander Cumine Peat, C. B., of the Bombay Engineers, whom she had survived about twenty years.

A significant indication of the condition of farming in Scotland is afforded in the fact that a farm in East Lothian, for which a rent of £1,400 was refused a few years ago, is now let at £900, with a year's rent-free occupancy to start with. In the Carse of Gowrie, one of the most fertile districts in Perthshire, the rent of one farm has fallen £400, and the new tenant has been promised that in four years twenty acres will be added to his holding without any increase of rent. Similar reductions have been made in the rents of farms in Fifeshire. A bankrupt tenant farmer in the Lothians, who paid £1,500 rent, is said to be £6,000 in arrears to the landlord.

A few days ago there arrived at Kilmadzow Common two bands of tinkers numbering 25, owning seven horses and five loaded vans. They came from the south. From Kilmadzow some of the number drove to Lanark to have a young love sick pair united in wedlock by the rites of the Episcopal Church. The wedding party returned, and the marriage festivities were carried on for eight days with great energy, the carousals knowing no surcease night or day. The tinkers visited the houses of several farmers and assaulted the inmates. The police went in pursuit of them, and after scouring the country succeeded in arresting the whole party.

At Govan recently a number of parties implicated in a bandrow in the burgh were brought up and tried. It appeared from the evidences of several witnesses examined to substantiate the various charges of breach of the peace and stone-throwing, that a Roman Catholic flute band had been down the river accompanying an excursion, and that on their return home up Govan Road they were hooted and stoned. A large crowd soon collected, and the police, who acted most promptly on the occasion, took half a dozen of the ringleaders into custody. It was proved that several parties were struck with stones and a serious breach of the peace created. The prisoners were convicted and severely fined. A large and excited crowd congregated around the police buildings during the trial.

The 105th anniversary of the birth of the poet Robert Tannahill was celebrated, as the custom has been since the "centenary" in 1874, by a grand vocal concert in the "Glen," in Gleniffer Braes, the use of which, and of the grounds on the occasion generally, being again freely granted for the purpose by the ever-liberal and good-natured proprietor, Wm. Fulton. The weather on this occasion was the reverse of propitious. Under the circumstances, the number of persons who found their way to the scene of the celebration was simply surprising. Last year it was calculated—it might be more correct to say guessed—that there would be not less than 30,000 people on the braes while the concert was going on; and on Saturday last the assemblage to appearance seemed scarcely smaller, although probably it would actually be so by some two or three thousands.

Ireland.

An equestrian statue of Lord Gough, recently successfully cast, to is be erected near Carsle Bridge, Dublin.

Miss Alice J. Kerr, having passed the required examination at Dublin, is now licentiate of the King and Queen's College of Physicians, Ireland.

Two privates of the 104th Regiment have been taught a lesson of loyalty at Belfast, having been sent to prison for 12 months for swearing at the Queen.

About 600 workmen employed in the Owen O'Cork Flax Spinning Mill, Belfast, have struck in consequence of a proposed reduction of 1d. in the shilling in the rate of pay.

Three masked men went to the house of a farmer at Shruel, County Galway, and fired three shots into it. The object was to intimidate him from paying his rent until the landlord consents to a general reduction on his estate.

There is a man at present in Portsadown named John Taylor, says the Armagh *Guardian*, who has attained the extraordinary age of 110 years. He was born on the 1st July, 1769, at Grange, a few miles from Portsadown.

Lord Portarlington contradicts the report that he intended to remit four years 15 per cent. of the rent due to him from his Queen's County tenantry. Though such a reduction might be necessary in England, it is not, says His Lordship, called for in that part of the kingdom.

The General Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church have adopted a series of resolutions, declaring the firm adherence of the General Assembly to the principle of united non-sectarian education as opposed to a denominational system, and their determination to maintain that principle in its integrity by every means in their power.

The anti-rent agitation in Ireland is increasing. A few days ago at a public meeting in county Galway a speech was made by Mr. Malachi O'Sullivan to fourteen thousand persons. They had come, he said, to assert with no uncertain voice that the land of Ireland belonged to the people of Ireland, and not to a few men, or to men who never saw the soil of Ireland. He mentioned a case of a man who had not a penny, but who bought an estate with borrowed money and then raised the rents to enable him to pay for it. He complained that owing to land jobbers a farmer could not buy meat for himself or his family, or the ordinary necessaries of life. How, he asked, were they to get rid of this system? They must have a system of peasant proprietors. Three cheers were then given for the French Revolution and the Irish Republic. He told them that they must save the people and take the sharing into their own hands. This advice elicited three cheers for the Zulus and King Cetywayo, whereupon he said that they did well to cheer for the Zulus, for, after seven hundred years of English rule, they knew what the Zulus were likely to suffer if they were brought under it; but they would not be brought under it, for they would fight to the last.

A singular will case has been commenced in the Dublin courts, in which the widow—still quite a young lady—of the late member for Kilkenny, Mr. Sullivan, who died at eighty-three years of age, worth £3,600 a year, and £20,000 made in trade as a miller, disputes the validity of an instrument irregularly executed. The testator married when verging on seventy, and considered his wife too fond of company—though he made no imputation of any kind against her; she was then scarcely twenty. A codicil to the will, it was deposed, was signed by witnesses not in the presence of each other. Mr. Sullivan was an eccentric, strong-willed man, and would not allow the error to be repaired.

WORLD WIDE ITEMS.

—A cool romance—courting a girl over ice cream.

—To the Manitoba wave—Come back and all will be forgiven.

—The saddest words of tongue or pen: "I intend to pay; I can't say when."

—Young ladies wearing fashionable dresses now may be said to be in clothes confinement.

—Who was it that said very beautifully of a man who had just died that he had "gone over to the majority"?

—A reckless drunkard at Shakopee, Minn., crunched a wine glass between his teeth and swallowed it. He soon died in dreadful agony.

—Longfellow writes to an inquirer: "The 'Golden Legend' is founded upon a German story of the Middle Ages, written by Hartman van due Ane."

—Bracelets with lead-pencils attached are among the latest fancies. These pencils are run through a ring attached to the bracelet when not in use.

—The Adjutant-General of Texas publishes a list of nearly 5,000 fugitive criminals who have fled from that State, 851 of whom are accused of murder.

—In the north of England confectioners sell funeral biscuits in bags on which is printed a funeral hymn. The same lines have done duty for generations.

—Bettie Kidwell went to meet the young man with whom she had arranged an elopement at Maysville, Ky., but he was not there, and the disappointment drove her to suicide.

—Some men are captivated by a woman's laugh, just as some men predict a pleasant day because the sun shines out clear for a moment. They forget the chance for squalls.

—The Milwaukee genius who invented a corset without hooks, buttons or hinges, and lost $500, explains that he thought the wearers of corsets slipped them over their heads.

—It seems remarkable that a nice easy-chair at home is much less comfortable to a man than the hard side of a dry goods box on a street corner with a crowd of loafers around.

—*London Truth*:—"A characteristic rumor is already current in Paris to the effect that the savages who assegaied the Prince Louis Napoleon, were no Zulus at all, but political agents in disguise."

TRICKS OF TRADE.—Blind man (loq.): "When I 'ears anyone a-coming along I stoops down and pats the dog." His mate: "Ah, I an't got no dog, but I takes and shivers awful. That 'as 'em.—*Judy.*

—Country doctor to the bereaved widow of a late member of the Legislature: "I cannot tell how pained I was to hear that your husband had gone to Heaven. We were bosom friends, but now we shall never meet again.

—The Lords of the treasury have directed the commissioners of her Majesty's Customs to allow all seized t