

opened it, but were still more alarmed, and let it fall to the ground in a fright, at seeing a flame of fire come out of it; and as many animals as came out so many flames of fire appeared. When we found this to be the case, we recovered from our fright, and again collected the insects, highly admiring their splendid appearance."

Parts of the lanterns are formed into armlets and necklaces, attached together by means of fine metallic thread, and worn by the higher ranks of the Brazilian ladies, by whom their splendour is considered exquisite and brilliant. They are valued by them at from £10 to £14.—*Natural History.*

### THE CORMORANT.

The cormorant belongs to the family of gulls. It is about the size of a large Muscovy duck, and may be distinguished from all other birds of this kind, by its four toes being toothed, or notched, like a saw, to assist it in holding its fishy prey. The head and neck of this bird are of a sooty blackness; and the body thick and heavy, more inclining in figure to that of the goose than the gull. The bill is straight till near the end, where the upper part bends into a hook. They are very expert in catching fish, and used to be trained in England so that they would fish for their masters. Indeed, if we mistake not, they are still used in China for this purpose. A gentleman who had visited China several years ago, described the manner in which these birds perform their task. He says, "The birds are educated as men rear up spaniels or hawks, and one man can easily manage a hundred. The fisher carries them out into the lake, perched on the gunnel of his boat, where they continue tranquil, and expecting his orders with patience. When arrived at the proper place, at the first signal given, each flies a different way to fulfil the task assigned it. It is very pleasing, on this occasion, to observe with what sagacity they portion out the lake or the canal where they are upon duty. They hunt about, they plunge, they rise a hundred times to the surface, until they have at last found their prey. They then seize it with their beak by the middle, and carry it to their master. When the fish is too large they give each other mutual assistance; one seizes it by the head, the other by the tail, and thus carry it to the boat together. Thore the boatman stretches out one of his long oars, on which they perch, and on being delivered of their burden, they fly off to continue their sport. When wearied, he allows them to rest for a while; but they are never fed till their work is over. In this manner they supply a very plentiful table; but still, their natural gluttony cannot even be reclaimed by education. They have always, while they fish, a string fastened round their throats, to prevent them from devouring their prey, or otherwise they would at once satiate themselves, and discontinue their pursuit the moment they had done so."

The great activity with which it pursues, and from a vast height drops down to dive after its prey, offers one of the most amusing spectacles to those who stand upon a cliff on the shore.

It sometimes happens that the cormorant has caught the fish by the tail, and consequently the fins prevent its being easily swallowed in that position. In this case, the bird may be observed to toss its prey above its head, and very dexterously catch it, when descending, by the proper end, and to swallow it with ease.

### THE OUTSIDE PASSENGER.

Some years ago a young lady took a seat in the stage coach. For many miles she rode alone; but there was enough to amuse her in the scenery through which she passed and the pleasing anticipations that occupied her mind. She had been engaged as governess for the grand-children of an earl, and was now travelling to his seat. At midday the coach stopped at an inn at which dinner was provided, and she alighted and sat down at the table. An elderly man followed and sat down also. The young lady arose, rang the bell, and addressing the waiter, said, "Here is an outside passenger: I cannot dine with an outside passenger." The stranger bowed, saying, "I beg your pardon, madam, I can go into another room," and immediately retired. The coach soon afterwards resumed its course, and the passengers their places. At length the coach stopped at the gate leading to the castle to which the young lady

was going; but there was not such prompt attention as she expected. All eyes seemed directed to the outside passenger, who was preparing to dismount. She beckoned, and was answered, "As soon as we have attended to his lordship we will come to you." A few words of explanation ensued, and to her dismay she found that the outside passenger with whom she had thought it beneath her to dine was not only a nobleman, but that very nobleman in whose family she had hoped to be an inmate. What could she do? How could she bear the interview? She felt really ill, and the apology she sent for her non-appearing that evening was more than pretence. The venerable peer was a considerate man, and one who knew the way in which the scripture often speaks of the going down of the sun. "We must not allow the night to pass thus," said he to the countess, "you must send for her, and we must talk to her before bed-time." He reasoned, with the foolish girl respecting her conduct, insisted on the impropriety of the state of mind that it evinced, assured her that nothing could induce him to allow his children to be taught such notions, refused to accept any apology that did not go the length of acknowledging that the thought was wrong, and when the right impression appeared to be produced, gave her his hand. The Lord of all, before whose judgment-seat every human being must hereafter stand, was for a season in the world, and the world knew him not. When he was on the earth, the Son of God was but an outside passenger. With what consternation will many of those who treated him with disdain recognize in the Almighty Judge of quick and dead, the despised itinerant from Galilee whom they scorned and derided! And as it was with him, so it is with his living representatives. By far the greater number of those who belong to the court of the Prince of princes have been outside passengers. What will be the feelings of many who have treated them contemptuously when they hear the words, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of my brethren, ye have done it unto me?" Happy would it be for the churches of Christ if all who belong to them were to remember habitually that they also have a Master who is in heaven; and that nothing is more clearly deducible from his instructions, than that every one who desires to enjoy his favour should be ready at all times to exercise courtesy towards an outside passenger.—*London Baptist Magazine.*

**GREEN PEAS FOR WINTER.**—The lovers of green peas will be pleased to learn that they can be preserved for winter use, by simply gathering them at the proper season for using them green, shelling them and drying them in the shade, and when well cured and perfectly dry, packing them away for use. When required for use they should first be immersed in warm water for ten or twelve hours, which will render them as tender and deliciously succulent as when taken from the vines. The best method of preserving them, after they have been thoroughly cured by the above process, is to put them into close jars or bottles. In this way, not only green peas, but green beans and green corn may be had the year round.—*Farmer and Mechanic.*

### APPLES OF GOLD.

"Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart. Psa. xxvi. 2. Search me, O God, and know my heart, and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psa. cxxxix. 23, 24.

Would David, the man after God's own heart, not trust himself, but present his heart to the Lord to be tried? much less can or ought we to trust our hearts; for "he that trusts in his own heart," says the wise man, "is a fool." Prov. xxviii. 26. We have more reason to be afraid of our own hearts than of all other enemies. It is not necessary for us to know when, or by what means, the Lord searches our hearts; but every one that is really in a state of grace, and walking in the fear of the Lord, will pray to him to search the heart, and to deliver him from every wicked way. The Holy Spirit hath various ways of searching the hearts of his people, and makes use of different means with the same person. We are not to limit the mode or extent of his operations; but it is our duty to pray that he will in every thing guide us in the way that leadeth to everlasting life. Some may be worked upon very differently from what we have been; but the whole is under the direction of infinite wisdom, and tends to manifest the glory of divine grace in our salvation.

Lord, search my soul, try every thought;  
Though my own heart accuse me not  
Of walking in a false disguise,  
I beg the trial of thine eyes.

—Bogatky,