

circumstances: First, that they are all shod with few nails, so placed in the shoe as to permit the foot to expand every time they move; second, that they all live in boxes, instead of stalls, and can move whenever they please; third, that they have two hours daily walking exercise when they are not at work, and fourth, that I have not a head-stall or rack-chain in my stall. These four circumstances comprehend the whole mystery of keeping horses' legs fine, and their feet in sound working condition up to a good old age."
—*Miles.*

Miscellaneous.

ORDER OF RANK AMONG FURS.—A large proportion of the furs used in this country and elsewhere are cured and dressed in London; and although England does not use expensive furs, yet London is the greatest fur mart in the world. The ermine is considered the most precious, and next to that the Russian sable; but the real sables are rare, for, according to our latest Russian statistics, only 25,000 skins of this beautiful little animal were produced during an entire year in the Czar's empire. The prices paid for them are almost fabulous, a fine set being worth \$2,000. The sable for lining of one of the Emperor's cloaks, exhibited at the World's Fair, in 1851, was valued at £1,000. Next to the sable in popularity and costliness, ranks the marten, or American sable—a fur rich and high-priced, yet so fashionable as to be almost universally sought for.

The Hudson Bay sables are next in value, and are almost as expensive as the Russian. Next is the mink, pre-eminent for beauty, wear and durability. It is not, perhaps, so delicate-looking as the stone-marten, or so artful-looking as the African monkey, or so captivating as the ermine; but is quiet and graceful, and more thrifty than them all. Besides the mink, the stone-marten, the fitch, the Siberian squirrel, and the Persian and Russian lamb, are in daily use. The skin of the black bear forms the most magnificent sleigh robe—a good turn-out of which, including robe and apron, costs upwards of \$100.

The Canadian furs most esteemed in Europe, and of which they have no representatives, are the black fox and the silver fox. These are only found in the Hudson Bay territory, or on the North shore of the St. Lawrence. The raccoon and the muskrat are also confined exclusively to this continent. In England, valuable furs are

but little worn—the climate not requiring the lengthened wear of furs at any one time. The muskrat and the rabbit, and the American hare, dyed, form, therefore, the bulk of the furs worn there. The value of those exported from the United States in 1857 was \$1,116,041.—*New York Courier and Enquirer.*

In Turkey, it is a law that no male child born of any daughter of the sultan shall be allowed to live. This barbarous custom is still in full force at the Seraglio, and a son recently born to the sultana, the wife of Mahmond Pasha, was pitilessly strangled immediately after its birth.

A PUBLISHER'S GIFT TO HIS NATIVE PLACE.—Mr. W. Chambers, of the old and well-known publishing firm of W. & R. Chambers, Edinburgh, has, at a cost of \$100,000, purchased and presented to his native town of Peebles, Scotland, an ancient building in the High Street of the place, formerly known as Queensbury Lodge, and which he has transformed into an "Institution," comprising a reading-room and library, a gallery of arts, a general museum, a county museum, and a spacious hall for public assemblies. One year has been busily spent in this metamorphosis of the old Lodge; and at last, fully completed, the ceremony of presentation took place last month, in ceremonies of several days duration, and of a public and highly interesting character, comprising prayers and a sermon, music, instrumental and vocal, a procession, a public gathering when the presentation took place, a banquet and a ball. Over six hundred persons, comprising the residents of Peebles and its vicinity, and many distinguished persons from a distance, assisted in this unique celebration, many of Mr. Chambers's old friends, whom he had not seen for twenty years or more, came from distant places expressly to assist in the ceremonies.

At the public dinner, Mr. Chambers was toasted in the most flattering terms, and on rising was received with enthusiastic demonstrations of respect and attachment. In the course of his modest reply he made the following interesting remarks:—

"Ten years ago I came back to reside in my native county, after an absence of about forty years. I left in 1813, a poor lad, with my mother and father, and went to Edinburgh. I pursued a humble career for many years, unknown to fame, unknown almost to anybody; yet I felt within me a desire to persevere and to push forward, to the best of the ability which Providence had.