

up on the former clip. The wool will be shipped, and it will be a matter of rest to learn how much the first large parcel Australian alpaca will realize in the English market.—*Sydney Morning Herald* Feb. 19, '62.

**THE POET LAUREATE AND THE LATE PRINCE CONSORT.**—It is stated that Mr. Alfred Tennyson received from the Princess Alice a most interesting autograph letter, written by command of her Majesty, expressing the intense pleasure of consolation which the Queen has derived from the dedication prefixed by the Laureate to the new edition of his "Idylls of the King"—a work which was an especial favourite with the Prince Consort. The following is the dedication referred to:—

These to his memory,—since he held them dear,  
For chance as finding there unconsciously  
Some image of himself—I dedicate,  
I dedicate, I consecrate with tears—  
These Idylls.

"And indeed he seems to me  
Scarce other than my own ideal knight,  
Who revered his conscience as his king;  
'Whose glory was redressing human wrong;  
'Who spoke no slander, no, nor listened to it;  
'Who loved one only, and who claved to her—  
Her—over all whose realms to their last life,  
Commingled with the gloom of imminent war,  
The shadow of his loss moved like eclipse,  
Darkening the world. We have lost him; he is gone;  
We know him now; all narrow jealousies  
Are silent; and we see him as he moved,  
How modest, kindly, all accomplished, wise,  
With what sublime repression of himself,  
And in what limits, and how tenderly;  
Of swaying to this faction or to that;  
Of making his high place the lawless perch  
Of wing'd ambitions, nor a vantage-ground  
Of pleasure; but thro' all this tract of years  
Wearing the white flower of a blameless life.  
Before a thousand peering littlenesses,  
A that fierce light which beats upon a throne,  
No blackens every blot: for where is he,  
Who dares foreshadow for an only son  
A lower life, a more unstain'd than his?  
How should England dreaming of his sons  
Be more for these than some inheritance  
Of such a life, a heart, a mind as thine,  
That noble Father of her Kings to be,  
Sourious for her people and her poor—  
Voice in the rich dawn of an ampler day—  
Un-sighted summoner of war and waste  
Of fruitless strifes and rivalries of peace—  
Sweet nature gilded by the gracious gleam  
Of letters, dear to Science, dear to Art,  
To thy land and ours, a Prince indeed,  
And all titles, and a household name,  
After, through all times, Albert the Good.

Break not, O woman's heart, but still endure;  
Ask not, for thou art Royal, but endure,  
—wearing all the beauty of that star  
Which shone so close beside thee, that ye made  
—light together, but has past and left  
—crown a lonely splendour.

"May all love,  
Love, unseen but felt, o'ershadow thee;  
—love of all thy sons encompass thee,  
—love of all thy daughter—cherish thee,  
—love of all thy people comfort thee,  
—God's love set thee at his side again."

**CUSTOMS IN CONNECTION WITH THE APPLE**  
—In Sussex, England, the blessing of the tree is still observed. On the eve of the day, young and old people assemble in the orchard and commence dancing round an apple tree, repeating a rude chant to words

of this purpose:—"God bless this tree to the use of the master. May it flourish and bring forth abundantly, even to fill a hat, to fill a basket, to fill a cart, to fill a waggon." The same ceremony is performed round every apple tree and pear tree in the orchard. In Devonshire, a certain apple tree, as a representative of the rest, is sprinkled with cider, or a bowl of it is dashed against the tree, or cakes steeped in cider are hung upon the branches, followed by an incantation, and a dance round the tree, and then home to feast.

**BE CHEERFUL AT YOUR MEALS.**—The benefit derived from food taken, depends very much upon the body while eating. If taken in moody, cross or dispirited condition of the mind, digestion is much less perfect and slower, than when taken with a cheerful disposition. The very rapid silent manner too common among Americans, should be avoided, and some topic of interest introduced at meals, that all may partake in, and if a hearty laugh is occasionally indulged in, it will be all the better. It is not uncommon, that a person dining in pleasant and social company, can eat and digest well that which when eaten alone, and the mind absorbed in some deep study or brooding over cares and disappointments, would lie long undigested in the stomach, causing disarrangement and pain, and if much indulged in, become the cause of permanent and irreparable injury to the system.

**HOW TO TEACH A PARROT TO TALK.**—In order to teach a parrot to imitate sounds, the best and the simplest mode is to take the bird into a perfectly quiet room, where it can hear and see no one but the instructor, and will not have its attention distracted by surrounding objects. Then, after taking every care to render the feathered pet familiar, speak the words, or produce the sounds, which the bird is required to imitate, and be careful to avoid varying them even by the fraction of a tone. You will soon see the pupil taking notice of the oft-repeated sound, and it will presently hold its head aside, as if to catch the tones more clearly. After a while it will try to imitate them; as soon as it makes an attempt, however imperfect, make much of the bird, and give it a small morsel of some special dainty.—*Every Boy's Magazine.*

**INGREDIENTS OF WHEAT.**—Estimating the yield of wheat at 25 bushels, 60lbs. the bushel, the amount 1,500lbs. carries off 30lbs. of ash; the straw, estimated at 3,000lbs., taking off 180lbs. The 210lbs. of ash carried off per acre by a crop of wheat as above is made up as follows: Potash 25.59lbs., soda 3.02, lime 12.94, magnesia 10.52, oxide of iron 2.55, phosphoric acid 20.56, sulphuric acid 10.56, chlorine 1.97, silica 118.29. In wheat the proportion of grain is 29 per cent., of straw 71.