

## SINGULAR TRAITS OF SONG BIRDS.

A gentleman of my acquaintance had an American mocking bird, that was either constantly singing, or else imitating the various sounds it heard. In order to try the powers of this bird, the owner purchased a fine sky-lark. When placed in the same room with the mocking bird, the song of the former was heard to echo through the house, as if it were chanting "on flutter wing," its well-known welcome to the rising sun. The mocking bird was silent for some time, but at last burst forth in the strains of the lark, but louder and clearer, as if mounting and stretching its wings towards heaven. The lark was silent from that moment, nor was a joyous note ever heard from it afterwards. Willing to test the powers of the mocking bird still further, an unusually large price was given for a blackbird, celebrated for its vocal powers. It was placed in the same room with the mocking bird. Early on the second morning its song was resumed, and its charming notes were warbled forth with all the sweetness and modulations which may be heard in its native thorny brakes. The mocking bird listened and was silent for a time; then all at once its notes were heard to issue forth, but sweeter and louder than those of the blackbird. The poor blackbird heard them, felt that it was conquered, remained silent, drooped, pined, and died. From the above facts, emulation would seem to be one of the causes of the songs of birds. When their powers are excelled, they appear to feel the disgrace of being conquered, and to lose all inclination to renew their former effort.—*Jesse's Country Life*.

**ARTIFICIAL STONE.**—A Mr. Ransome (of Ipswich,) after much patient research, has succeeded in maturing a plan for rendering stones, whether consisting of silex, granite, limestone, or marble, perfectly soft and malleable and which may, after being cast in moulds, be again rendered hard by the action of fire, and more durable than in their original state, by which process the most elaborate and beautiful designs are produced, equal in appearance to the works of the sculptor, and at a price which will render them easily attainable; it will stand all changes of atmosphere, and is exceedingly durable. Information has also reached us from a correspondent in the United States that an ingenious mason, named Hull (of Blainville,) has succeeded in producing a composition which is equal in appearance and durability to stone itself. Having had presented to him several specimens of the materials of the edifices at Yucatan, which have stood its humid climate for unknown centuries, and which were supposed to be stone, he analysed the substance, and has succeeded in perfecting a similar composition, which becomes excessively hard and durable, and superior to the best natural stone. With the same material he forms a wash for external walls, which is impervious to water, and protects materials with which it is covered from the action of fire, and for which he has been offered a large sum as purchase money; he can manufacture columns, pillars, &c., of this material, which, it is expected, will prove of important uses in building. Galvanism is employed in the production of the composition.

**NOVEL IMPORTATION.**—In consequence of the reduction of the duty on glass, it appears to be in contemplation to bring it into use for the roofing of houses. An importation of a thick description of window glass has already taken place, intended for roofing, and were it generally introduced those who require a strong light to enable them to carry on their occupations, might effect their object and avoid the window-tax. This roofing will be much lighter than tiles and slates, and if it be extended into the country, the poor will then be enabled to partake of the luxury of a bunch of black cluster grapes growing under the roofs of their own humble cottages. The glass will also be of great use to market gardeners, and it will serve for the roofing of green-houses.

**ROYAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, CIRENCESTER.**—We are happy to hear that this important undertaking is receiving the support it so richly deserves. His Royal Highness Prince Albert has recently become patron and a governor of the college: and we consider that it behoves

every friend of an improved education for agricultural pursuits to rally round this attempt to found such an institution as will be adequate to the wants, and worthy of the great interest it is intended to serve. We understand that the buildings and preparations are so advanced that the college is expected to open for the reception of students in the course of the present year.

**PRICE OF BREAD.**—The bakers of this town last week reduced the price of the 4lb. loaf to fourpence halfpenny, and the best seconds is brought into the town at fourpence! This is "cheap bread" with a vengeance! nobody but the farmers has a right now to complain of the price of bread.—*Exeter Gazette*.

Mr. James Comins, of South Holton, exhibited his plough which won the prize last year, and which Earl Fortescue highly recommended, at the recent agricultural exhibition at Torrington. He also showed two other ploughs, which were materially improved, and which excited some attention.—*Western Times*.

All who have meditated on the art of governing mankind have been convinced that the fate of empires depends on the education of youth.—*Aristotle*.

**EGGS PICKLED.**—The farmer's daines in some parts of Hampshire, in their notable endeavours to turn everything to good account, have acquired much fame for pickling eggs which, whilst they constitute a somewhat novel feature in the catalogue of condiments generally, are at the same time particularly relishing. When eggs are plentiful, they take from four to six dozen of such as are newly laid, and cause them to be boiled hard; then, divesting them of the shells, they place them in large-mouthed earthen jars, and pour upon them scalded vinegar, well seasoned with whole pepper, allspice, ginger, and a few cloves of garlic. When the pickle is cold, the jars are stopped down quite close, and the eggs will be fit for use in the course of a month afterwards. The eggs thus treated are excellent, and are held in high esteem by all the farm-house epicures in that part of England.

**THE CROPS IN SCOTLAND.**—From the late rains and fine mild weather which have supervened these last ten days, together with the quantities of artificial manures applied to every species of crop, and the effects produced by the rain in bringing these into immediate action, we never saw this district of the county of East Lothian present so luxuriant an appearance at so early a period of the season. Each crop seems to vie with another in the promise of future plenty. Wheat will be in the ear in eight days; in some places it is far out of the *shot blade*. The hay crop is abundant, and the pastures are every where improved by the rains. Turnip sowing is rapidly progressing under the most favourable circumstances. The potatoes are generally vigorous in the stems, and although some partial failures are spoken of, still it is not nigh the extent of former years. Cattle markets, especially the beef, are still looking up.—*Berwick Warder*.

**THE WEATHER AND CROPS IN SCOTLAND.**—A cold cloudy atmosphere, with frequent high winds, prevents vegetation from making the rapid progress generally expected at this season of the year. The grain crops, however, although late, are generally healthy and strong, and, in many instances, rather too thick on the ground. Pastures, on the whole, are fresh, and have been much invigorated by the recent fall of rain. Potatoes, in so far as we have seen or heard of, have braided freely and vigorously and have not yet shown any tendency to disease. Excepting that the season is not an early one, the prospect as to the crop on the ground is, on the whole, highly favourable.—*Edinburgh Paper*.

**REASON AND KINDNESS.**—The language of reason unaccompanied by kindness will often fail of making an impression; it has no effect on the understanding because it touches not the heart. The language of reason unassociated with reason will frequently be unable to persuade; because though it may gain upon the affections, it wants that which is necessary to convince the judgement.—But let reason and kindness be united in a discovery, and seldom will pride and prejudice find it easy to resist it.—*Gisborne*.