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## 'THE WHISPER.'

We give on this page an engraving, copied from a painting by Mr. Sant, which was shown at the great International Exhibition in London. The picture tells its own story pretty plainly. The attitudes and expressions of the little maidens are very natural, and, with the title, suggestive; but as these—we trust we may be permitted to say—have been faithfully preserved by our draughtsman and engraver, we will leave the reader to speculate upon whom these pretty little ladies have apparently caught sight of or expect, and the nature of the seemingly mischievous and naughty confidence 'whispered' in what is, probably, their place of concealment.

**IMMENSE STOCK OF ARMS.**—Since the war began, the United States armory at Springfield has received extensive additions. New buildings have been erected and old ones enlarged, and now about two thousand eight hundred men are employed in the various departments.—The accumulation of guns in the arsenal now amounts to one hundred and thirty-three thousand. The total is increased daily by about nine hundred pieces, although the manufacture of barrels averages nearly one thousand a day, and is diminished by orders from the government at irregular intervals, the issues during the last fortnight amounting to fourteen thousand, while the previous fortnight there were none. About forty thousand, however, are kept boxed, subject to call at any time.



"THE WHISPER."—FROM A PAINTING BY MR. SANT.

**CONCENTRATED FOOD.**—At a factory in Portland, Me., nearly one thousand bushels of potatoes are 'concentrated' for the army every day. All the water is absorbed, leaving about five pounds of nutriment from the sixty pounds which a bushel of potatoes averages, and this concentration is ground up, giving it the appearance of Indian meal. It is cooked by returning the water to it in a boiling state, and keeping it hot from ten to fifteen minutes, when it swells like starch and assumes the appearance of potatoes prepared for the table.

**CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.**—The Quebec Mercury, speaking of the annual meeting of this company at Hamilton, on the 27th ultimo, says:—The report which was read upon the occasion is far too lengthy to give in detail; but we gather the following information from it, with reference to the business of the company during the past year, which seems to be of a satisfactory nature: That 304 new assurances, for the sum of \$400,166, have been effected. At the 30th of April, the company enjoyed an annual premium income on its policies of \$101,731. The claims by death, during the year, amounted to \$31,300, being \$20,000 less than was calculated on. The rate of interest on investment has increased, having exceeded six per cent; and on the 30th April a dividend of five per cent to the shareholders was declared. These favorable facts speak highly in favor of the management of the Institution.

To excel in anything valuable is great, but to be above conceit on account of one's accomplishments is greater.

THREE may keep counsel if two be away.