

JUNE COMETH.

O Lover-bird, haste to thy wooing,  
Break forth into bloom, red rose;  
For the east doth flush with an eager blush,  
And June thro' the garden goes.

She is white like the tall white lilies  
That sicken the air with sweet,  
And the yellow hair o'er her bosom bare  
Falls down to her sandal'd feet.

Her eyes are as deep as the ocean,  
And calm as a forest pool;  
Her breath is as free as the sea-winds be,  
And her lips with the dew are cool.

She comes from the daisied meadows,  
By tender winds o'erblown;  
For May, the child who erst ran wild,  
Is now to a woman grown.

Behold! like a queen she cometh,  
So stately and fair and meek;  
And the lilies swoon in their own perfume  
To touch her fairer cheek.

O birds, be no cease to your singing;  
Break forth into bloom, red rose;  
For day's high-priest cometh out of the east,  
And June thro' the garden goes.

Her eyelids droop with the passion  
Her trembling lips would own;  
And the kiss of the sun her brow upon  
A rose in her cheek has blown.

Her long white arms to her lover  
She lifts, and her parted lips  
Drink the light of his kiss, as a bee, I wis,  
The sweet of a lily sips.

Sing loud, O ye birds of loving,  
Till all the world gives ear;  
For the sun is in love in the heavens above,  
And June, the queen, is here.

—Charles W. Coleman, jun., in Harper's Magazine for June.

A MOSCOW PRISON.

When in Moscow in 1885 I drove out with my travelling companion and an American, a former Governor of Virginia, to see the new Central Prison, recently built in the suburbs. We arrived, however "after the fair," for it was at the end of August, and most of the companies of convicts had started, 500 only remaining, of various categories, including, I think, wives and children. We went over the building, which was a great improvement on the old one. The wards were very large and lofty, reminding one of extensive city warehouses, and detached from the main building were towers with small rooms for political prisoners. The rooms certainly were not large, but they appeared remarkably comfortable, or at all events had nothing about them to recall the sensational "damp," "fungus-covered" cells into which certain writers on Russian prisons are fond of thrusting their political prisoners, especially in the Alexeiefsky ravelin of the fortress of Peter and Paul in St. Petersburg. I did not secure a photograph of the new Central Prison at Moscow, but had unexpectedly become possessed of a sketch of a cell in the Alexeiefsky ravelin made by a political prisoner who occupied it. This prisoner, on my second visit to Siberia, heard me narrating to a friend that I had been permitted to visit the Peter and Paul fortress, whereupon he drew me aside and told me that he had been a prisoner therein, and would tell me his experience if I would call upon him privately. I did so, and was rather behind the time appointed, and whilst he was waiting he made for me a pen-and-ink sketch of his cell or room, which measured eighteen feet eight inches long by sixteen feet four inches broad and nine feet four inches high. It was furnished with table, chair, commode, and a bed with two feather pillows, a pair of sheets, blanket and woollen coverlet. Mezentseff, chief of the secret police, who was assassinated by the Nihilists in 1879, asked me on one occasion whether he would like to smoke, in which case he should be supplied with a quarter of a pound of tobacco for cigarettes every other day. He was also asked if he would like to paint or write, and drawing materials were brought to him, as also books from the library. It was in this fortress-prison that he read Gibbon's "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire."

The small proportion of political prisoners to criminals mentioned will not coincide with the popular idea as to their number, but in fact much nonsense has been written and more believed respecting the number of Russian political offenders sent into exile. One writer talks about a calculation that in Eastern Siberia there were from 30,000 to 40,000 Polish political exiles, whereas in 1879, 898 was the total number of Polish criminals exiled, and criminals numbered the political by more than ten to one. Others, when they heard prison statistics quoted that from 17,000 to 20,000 Russians were exiled yearly, jumped to the conclusion that these, or a large portion of them, were political offenders; whereas the deportation of political offenders, in recent years, did not come under the ordinary prison administration at all, but was separately managed. The "political" travelled alone, and was usually kept in prison alone, specially guarded; and under these circumstances some time to time I saw them in the prisons of Russia and Siberia, but it was always in ones and twos, and as rare birds among a whole flock of others. I do not think I met with fifty in going through nearly all the principal prisons of Siberia; and this impression received support from such

information as I could obtain from an official I know, high in the prison administration, who told me in November, 1881, that the total number of political offenders of all kinds sent to Siberia that year was seventy-two, of which number, however, about half had been condemned to the mines in four previous years, but detained in Russia.—Dr. Landell, in Harper's Magazine for May.

THE BAKING POWDER DISCUSSION.

OFFICIAL TESTS TO DETERMINE THE BEST—WHY THEY ARE SUPERIOR LEAVENING AGENTS—THE USE OF CARBONATE OF AMMONIA.

The official analyses by Professor W. G. Tucker, of New York State, have afforded some of the most valuable evidence yet produced relative to the actual character of the food and drugs in every day use. Some time since Professor Tucker was directed to analyze the various brands of baking powder and report which was the purest and best. He procured samples from the grocers in Albany, and after a series of exhaustive tests reported that the Royal was the purest and best of all examined. The accuracy of the published report being questioned by a local manufacturer, a reporter of the Albany Journal obtained an interview with the Professor, which is reported as follows in the paper: "Doctor," said the reporter, "it appears that one of our local baking powder manufacturers attempts to discredit the report some time ago published in the Journal with reference to baking powders, for which the analytical examinations were made by yourself and Professor Mason. Were your analyses and opinion printed correctly?"

"They were," replied Professor Tucker, "literally." "You say, Doctor, that the Royal baking powder is superior to any other baking powder which you have examined?"

"That is my report."

"Wherein, Doctor, consists the superiority which you find in the Royal over other brands?"

"As stated in my report, in the great purity of its ingredients, in the unquestioned propriety and wholesomeness of those ingredients, in the exact proportions of the same, and the chemical accuracy and skill with which they have been combined. As I said before, it is, I believe, a baking powder 'unequalled for purity, strength and wholesomeness.'"

"Doctor, the Journal's lady readers would like you to inform them what are the peculiar virtues of a good baking powder over other and more old-fashioned methods of raising bread, biscuit and cake?"

"That would require a long answer, something in the nature of a lecture. Briefly, however, the advantage of the Royal baking powder over yeast consists in the quicker work it accomplishes, in the preservation of some of the best elements of the flour, which are destroyed in the production of the carbonic acid gas by the use of yeast, and in the absolute certainty of sweet, light and digestible food. Over other methods for quick raising, the merits of a pure baking powder are great. It is always ready for use, the acid and alkali are combined in exact proportions to produce definite results, or to render the largest amount of leavening gas and leave nothing more than a neutral residuum, which is not the result where cream of tartar and soda are bought separately and mixed in the kitchen, for it will always occur where this is done that one or the other of these substances will predominate, making the food yellow, heavy, bitter and unwholesome. Besides, the cream of tartar which can be procured by the housekeeper is mostly adulterated, adding to the uncertainty of the unwholesomeness of the food. All these difficulties are avoided in the use of a pure, properly-made baking powder."

"Will baking powders keep? How long will they hold their strength?"

"If properly made, until used. A perfect baking powder must combine superlative strength with power to retain it indefinitely. Baking powders generally are robbed of the necessary preserving agent in order to give present strength, or else have their efficiency largely destroyed by the addition of large quantities of flour to prevent premature decomposition. The method by which both these quantities are retained in the highest degree produces the perfect article, and this I believe is fully accomplished in the Royal baking powder."

"Doctor, what about ammonia in baking powder?"

"Carbonate of ammonia is sometimes used in the higher class of baking powders."

"Is it injurious or objectionable?"

"Nonsense! Quite the contrary. It has been used for generations in the finest food. It is a very volatile agent. Heat entirely evolves it into gas, leaving no residuum. Were it used in sufficient quantity to do the entire work of aeration, I am inclined to believe it would be the acme of leavening agents. Some of the highest authorities, as Has-sall, recommended its exclusive use for this purpose in preference to yeast or other kinds of leaven. It is universally admitted to be a wholesome and valuable agent, and no chemist of reputation will class it otherwise. I have become indignant when I have read the silly charges that have frequently been made through ignorance or otherwise against it."

"Then those manufacturers who advertise that their powder does not contain it?"

"Confess that their powder lacks a most useful, wholesome and excellent ingredient."

"But they say its origin is filthy?"

"Its origin and method of preparation are no more filthy than are the origin and preparation of bread. All this talk about ammonia in baking powder and its filthy origin is the veriest rubbish. A man disgraces himself when he lends himself to any such statements. It is particularly unfair for baking powder manufacturers to seek to pervert the truth, or prejudice the ignorant or unwary by statements that it is either harmful or dirty. Ammonia exists in the very air we breathe, and is largely present in nature as a wholesome substance."

British and Foreign.

Mrs. HASTINGS, missionary in Ceylon, is a sister of President Cleveland.

THE union of the two English Presbyterian congregations at Alnwick has been effected.

ERSKINE U. P. congregation, Glasgow, has moderated in a call to Rev. James Kidd, B.D., St. Andrews.

NEWS has been received of the death of Miss Henderson, who had been engaged in zenana work at Ahmedabad.

THE U. P. Manse Ladies Temperance Society has now a membership of 578, an increase during two years of 130.

A LARGE white marble medallion and tablet in memory of Samuel Morley have been placed in Bristol Cathedral.

OF the 200 Hebrew Christian ministers in the United Kingdom more than 100 belong to the Anglican communion.

THE Rev. J. B. Armstrong, assistant, Duirnish, has been elected to the parish of Skirling, until recently held by his father.

MR. M'GOWAN of Fortwilliam has been elected to Cromdale parish by 127 against 107; the minority appealed to the Presbytery.

GLASGOW Free Presbytery resolved, on motion of Professor Candlish, to petition the House of Lords against the Deceased Wife's Sister bill.

IN India, all the Protestant and nearly all Roman Catholic bishops, have expressed themselves in favour of an Army Temperance Association.

MR. ROBERTSON, assistant in Free West Church, Brechin, is to be called to St. Thomas', Greenock, as assistant and successor to Dr. Laughton.

THE present year is the tercentenary of the first manufacture of paper in England. The pioneer paper mill was erected at Dartford, in Kent, in 1588.

MR. GEORGE B. STUDD, brother of the Chinese missionary, has been stimulating the missionary spirit in addresses to the Christian young men of Liverpool.

THE latest journalistic novelty in India is a Hindi monthly for native ladies entitled *Sugrihimi*. It is published at Rutlam, and is edited by a native lady.

INVERNESS Town Council has unanimously resolved to confer the freedom of the burgh on Dr. Aird, of Creich, Moderator of the Free Church General Assembly.

DR. SMITH, of Cathcart, has been presented with an address enclosed in a casket, on his retirement from the school board, over which he presided for twelve years.

IN all the Free Church Presbyteries it has been agreed to ask Parliament to take measures for suppressing the drink traffic between merchants and the native races in Africa.

THE Evangelization Committee of London Presbytery are of opinion that open-air work during the summer months should be as well supported as mission hall work during the winter.

MANY of the London Presbyterian ministers supply their congregations with a list of psalms, hymns and tunes to be sung in Church a month in advance, greatly to the improvement of the service of praise.

IT is a remarkable fact that with one exception all the ministers who have been identified with Morningside Church, Edinburgh, which celebrated its jubilee lately, are still alive and engaged in active duty.

THE Rev. R. Wardlaw Thomson, who has just returned from Africa, protests against young men who have gone wrong being sent out there by their friends. They are killed off directly by the dreadful drink.

IN the New Hebrides, according to the latest report from Rev. J. G. Paton, three new islands have been occupied during the past year; and other stations are to be established till there is a branch in every island.

THE Free Church Temperance Society in its report for the past year claims to be numerically the largest temperance organization in Scotland; it has 650 abstaining ministers and over 600 congregational societies and bands of hope.

THE house on Highgate Hill, made famous by Coleridge's residence, has for its present tenant a clergyman, Rev. Cooper Smith, who preserves Coleridge's study almost untouched, and takes a pleasure in showing the house to literary pilgrims.

THE division of the London Presbytery appointed by the Synod has already come into operation. London North and London South are to be their respective designations. At the first meeting of the former Dr. Verger M. White was appointed Moderator, and Rev. W. Ballantyne Clerk.

PROFESSOR DRUMMOND, in compliance with a request from Lord Aberdeen, Mr. Balfour, Mr. George Curzon, and other prominent men in London, has consented to give a series of addresses on Sabbath afternoons, in June, at Grosvenor house, which the Duke of Westminster has offered for the purpose.

AT the annual social meeting of the Psalmody Association of Regent Square Presbyterian Church, Miss Kennedy, daughter of the late Scottish vocalist, contributed to the programme. Under the leadership of Mr. H. L. Fulkerston, the service of praise at Regent's Square is of an exceedingly interesting character.

DR. SOMERVILLE, who was secretary of the old Glasgow Bible Society, when it was merged in the National Bible Society of Scotland, was recently presented by his fellow-directors of the latter institution with a copy of the holy Scriptures, with affectionate congratulations on the completion of his ministerial jubilee.

MR. JOHN NEIL, a Paisley weaver, who died the other day in his ninth year, was the father of thirteen children, the eldest of whom, long since deceased, was at one time officiating elder of Storie Street Baptist Church. He had sixty grandchildren, and ninety great grandchildren. The patriarch's two favourite books were the Bible and Burns.