

## THE MILKING HOUR.

You good old Boss, stand quietly now,  
 And don't be turning your head this way ;  
 You're looking for Donald, it's plain to see,  
 But he won't be here to-day.  
 Nobody came with me, dear old Boss,  
 Not even to carry my pail ; for, you see,  
 Donald's gone whistling down the lane,  
 And Donald is vexed with me.

And all because of a trifling thing :  
 He asked me a question, and I said " Nay."  
 I never dreamed that he would not guess  
 It was only a woman's way.  
 I wonder if Donald has ever learned  
 The motto of " Try and try again."  
 I think, if he had, it might have been  
 He had not learned in vain.

And there needn't have stretched between us two,  
 On this fair evening, the meadow wide,  
 And I needn't have milked alone to-night,  
 With nobody at my side.  
 What was it he said to me yester eve,  
 Something about—about my eyes ?  
 It's strange how clever that Donald can be ;  
 That is, whenever he tries.

Now, Bossy, old cow, you musn't tell  
 That I've cried a little while milking you ;  
 For, don't you see ? it is nothing to me  
 What Donald may choose to do.  
 If he choose to go whistling down the lane,  
 I chose to sing gayly coming here.  
 But it's lonely without him, after all ;  
 Now isn't it, Bossy dear ?

I—hark ! who's that ? Oh, Donald, it's you !  
 Did you speak ?—excuse me—what did you say ?  
 " May you carry my pail ? " Well, yes : at least,  
 I suppose, if you try, you may.  
 But, Donald, if I had answered No,  
 Do you think it would have occurred to you  
 Not to be vexed at a woman's way.  
 But to try what coaxing would do ?

M. D. BRINE, in *Harper's Weekly*.

**LIGUSTRUM FORTUNEL.**—This Privet is really grand when in a thriving condition ; and as to soil or situation, it seems, like the common kind, to be one of the most accommodating of shrubs. Its leaves are arranged more regularly along the shoots than in the other species, while the smaller branches push forth almost horizontally from the main stems. The white, feathery flowers are very sweet scented—too much so, in fact, for use in a cut state. Another name by which this Privet is often known is *Ligustrum sinense*.—*The Garden*.

**THE FLOWERS OF BURNS.**—No evidence is needed to show that Burns was fond of flowers ; his pathetic lament for the Daisy which fell under his ploughshare is ample proof of that. Carlyle, however, in his essay on the peasant poet, quotes one of

his letters in which he thus speaks of his favorite blossoms : " I have some favorite flowers, in spring," he says, " among which are the mountain Daisy, the Harebell, the Foxglove, the wild Brier Rose, the budding Birch, and the hoary Hawthorn, that I view and hang over with particular delight " Tell me, my friend, to what can this be owing ; are we a piece of machinery, which, like the *Aolian* harp, passive takes the impression of the passing accident ? or do these workings argue something within us above the trodden clod ? Burns' respect and love of the " wee crimson tipit flower " was, indeed, only exceeded by the devotion which Chaucer paid to it, as to all that was bright and sparkling among field blossoms.

**IMPORTS OF FOREIGN FRUIT.**—The *Journal of Commerce* has published a full report of the imports of foreign fruits into the port of New-York. By it we learn that there were brought 953,837 cases and boxes of oranges from Sicily, Italy and Spain, containing 244,270,290 oranges ; from the West Indies, Central and South America, 31,160,584 oranges, and from Florida 200,000 barrels and boxes. The total value was \$3,853,007. Of those coming from the Mediterranean, 33 per cent. were spoiled, and of those from the West Indies, 36 per cent. were lost. From the Mediterranean come 1,052,874 boxes containing 347,448,420 lemons, in which there was a loss of 20 per cent. ; also 108,797 barrels, and 10,667 half-barrels of grapes, valued at \$386,392. The loss was 25 per cent., on the passage. From the West Indies, Central and South America, there were received 2,555,320 pine apples, the loss on which was 20 per cent. ; 1,416,492 bunches of bananas, loss was 16 per cent., and 15,041,507 cocoanuts, of which the loss was 8 per cent. Beside these fruits, there were received 1,987 barrels of limes, with a loss of 35 per cent. ; 1,270 barrels of shaddocks, loss 10 per cent. ; 74,150 mangoes, loss 50 per cent. ; 25,600 grape fruits, loss 10 per cent., and 15,115 plantains, loss 15 per cent. Cocoanuts and Florida fruits came in duty free ; the total value of dutiable fruits was \$5,530,704, and the total duties received were \$951,924 45.