

turned with a sickening feeling of regret to the fearful reality, and the blight of disappointment fell upon her soul. As she reached the little gate she paused to listen, was it Joseph's voice she heard? Oh! how her heart bounded with joy, it was not often he spent an evening at home; for the past year they had been less and less frequent. Evening after evening had she sat anxiously watching for him, still hoping he might come, and as often had her hopes proved delusive. As she entered and her eye wandered around the room, she found that, alas! she was again doomed to disappointment.

(To be continued in our next.)



Agricultural.

DORKING FOWLS.

This breed which is now extensively distributed, is distinguished by having five claws; one sort is perfectly white, and another of a partridge colour. These were long peculiar to Dorking, an ancient and beautiful little town in the South of England. Columella, a Roman writer on agriculture, in the first century, describes fowls of this kind, so that it may reasonably be supposed the breed was originally introduced to England, like many other useful things, by the Romans. Blumenbach classes fowls with five or six toes among monsters with superfluous parts.

The very small breed of fowls, called "*Bantams*," are said to have been first introduced into England from Bantum, in the Isle of Java, in the year 1683.

BIRDS' EGGS.

The composition of eggs affords much curious instruction. The body of the egg contains neither lime nor phosphoric acid, both of which substances are requisite for the bones of the young bird; these materials therefore are furnished by the shell, which becomes progressively thinner during the period of incubation, till the living embryo has appropriated a sufficient quantity for the formation of its bones. Part of the albumen combines with the shell for this purpose, and another portion forms feathers.

Fowls kept closely confined away from substances containing lime, will lay eggs without shells. Dr. Paris has shewn, that if the legs of hens be broken, they will lay their eggs without shells until the fracture is repaired; nature employing all the lime in circulation for the purpose of reuniting the bones;—a beautiful and beneficent contrivance. Eggs may be preserved by rubbing them over with butter or varnish, which by filling up the pores in the shell, cuts off the communication of the embryo with the external air. The embryo, however, is not killed. Reaumur covered eggs with spirit varnish, and found them capable of producing chickens after two years, when the varnish was carefully removed.

WHAT PLANK ROADS DO FOR THE FARMER—A writer, in speaking of the benefits of Plank Roads, observes that the farmer has what he never had before—a good road every day in the year—the same in all seasons, and can select for his travel, days when he cannot work on the farm, taking with greater ease, in half the time, three times what he formerly could carry. His woodlands acquire a value they never had before, from the ease with which his timber or wood can be taken to market. His farm increases in value from 10 to 50 per cent. The wear and tear to his horse, harness and vehicle, is reduced at least one-half, leaving a surplus in his pocket, after paying tolls, which would otherwise have been spent on repairs. His produce, of whatever kind, can be conveyed to market with one-half the expense attended upon carrying it over the old road, from the increase in the quantity he is able to carry at a single load; and he can with the greater facility avail himself of all the advantages of churches, and neighborhood and friendly intercourse.

Farmers take one and a half solid cords of green wood to market, where formerly a half and three-quarters of a solid cord was considered a load; 80 bushels of rye and 100 bushels of oats, when formerly they carried but 40 and 50 bushels. This is done at the rate of four miles an hour, whereas three miles, with a team, was considered rapid traveling, when the road was in tolerable order.—A manufacturer of Utica formerly transported from the railroad to his establishment, a distance of seven miles, ten bales of cotton per day, with two teams, which made each but one daily trip; but on the recently constructed plank road, one team perform the journey twice, delivering 15 bales per day. The average weight of a bale of cotton is 5 cwt.; therefore one team is now equal to the work of 75 cwt. while on the old road it was equal to 25 cwt.—and these loads are considered fair average burdens, without the energies of the team unfairly taxed.—*American Paper.*

CURIOS.—Some time since Mr. Dean butcher who lives three miles from this city on the Dundas road noticed the appearance about his house of *white rats*. They were of the same size of the common rat, but tamer and perfectly white. The eyes are however very different being quite red like those of a ferret. He has seen quite a number of them and caught several. Mr. Leach the Veterinary Surgeon on Queen Street has one stuffed. None have ever been seen before in this vicinity or any where that we know of in Canada. How has this happened?



The Literary Gem.

THE SUN-SHOWER.

BY FANNY FALES.

[From Arthur's Home Gazette.]

Sparkling in the sunlight,
Dancing on the hills,
Tapping on my window,
Singing in the rills,
Comes the pleasant sun-shower,
Like a glad surprise:
While I gaze with wonder,
On the changeful skies.

I'll forth to the woodlands,
Violets are awake,
Gaily sings the red-breast,
Hiding in the brake,
Through the budding forest,
Not a zephyr sighs;
Soft the air and dreamy,
As a lover's eyes.

I love to feel the warm rain,
Dropping on my brow,
As the glad tears fell from
Eyes that slumber now.
Look! what bright Mosaic,
Arches all the west!
Resting on the uplands,
On old ocean's breast.

Is it but a portal
To homes in yonder blue,
That viewless angels
This moment enter through!
Look down the vista
Of the years I've trod,
Mem'ry brings life's sun-shower—
Thanks to thee, oh God.

That so few its rain-clouds,
Whence no sun-light streamed:
That so oft the rainbow,
On its darkness beamed;
Thro' which hopes, like angels,
Pass'd down from heaven,
Through which praise ascended
For a blessing given.

PRAIRIES OF THE WEST.

Every one has heard of the great and beautiful prairies of the west. Many who read this have seen them, and travelled over their boundless wastes as we have done—but yet many have not. There is something grand and beautiful in the sight of a prairie. At first it does not seem so much so, but like the sight of the Falls of Niagara, familiarity does not lessen their beauty or grandeur, but increases it. The sight of great men, like Napoleon, Wellington, Washington, Brougham, Taylor, Clay, Lamartine and the nobles in mind of earth has nothing striking to the mind in it, and we see nothing in their peculiar in mind or body at first glance; but when we listen and become familiar to the wisdom of their minds—the profundity and energy of their character, and their learning and patriotism, it is then that we admire with a deep admiration. So when we gaze day after day on the mighty Cataract at Niagara, with its swift, white, and thundering waters that pour forever in one ceaseless rush into a mighty basin—when we behold the seven miles of rock that they have worn through in thousands of ages gone by, and reflect that empires and thousands of nations have risen and fallen during that time, and that hundreds and thousands must rise and fall in time to come, whilst they continue to roll on in solemn grandeur. Oh it is then that their sublimity strikes the soul! So when we stand on the confines of a vast undulating prairie, and gaze over its distance in all directions for ten miles, with scarcely a tree to relieve the mighty void. When we watch the distant sky and clouds uniting as it were with the green bosom of the earth, and the heavens in brightness embracing the wide spread fields of flowers, and all mingling into one—when we hear the silent voice of nature come over the wilderness in a sound of solemn grandeur—and hear the scream of the wild curlew in the upper sky soaring over his grassy nest, or see the free-born wild deer, with antlers erect, and bushy tail of whiteness,