

yields wine: wax and oils of various kinds are got from it, and its leaves are manufactured into cordage. The centre of the tree also yields sago-flour, which for many years past has been successfully applied by a Glasgow firm in manufacturing a starch which the Queen of England has used exclusively for several years in her laundry, and whose laundress pronounced it to be "the finest starch she ever used."

**A CURIOUS JEWISH LEGEND.**—Titus passed through what had been Jerusalem after its destruction. It is said that the sight of the ruins filled with sorrow and awe the conqueror, in whose character, according to the statement of contemporaries, good and evil strangely alternated. A Jewish legend has embellished this circumstance by describing in the same fabulous terms certain tortures which Titus had to endure in punishment for the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. On his voyage from Egypt to Italy (so goes the story), Titus was overtaken by a storm, which threatened to destroy the vessel that bore him. Conscious of the righteous anger of the God of Israel whom he had offended, Titus broke forth in blasphemies against him, as if his power were limited to the sea, in which he had once destroyed Pharaoh, and now threatened his own safety, while he was unable successfully to contend against him upon land. A voice from on high rebuked the blasphemy. The storm was hushed; but no sooner had Titus landed than he felt excruciating pains in his head, occasioned, as it afterwards turned out, by an insect gnawing on his brain, which according to the Divine threatening, was to continue his tormentor through life. Only once, and for a short time, the noise from a blacksmith's shop caused the insect to desist. On his death-bed, Titus ordered the physicians after his decease to open his skull, in order to ascertain the occasion of this ceaseless agony. To their astonishment they discovered in it an animal, which had grown to the size of a swallow, two talents in weight, with metal bill and claws, that had gnawed at the emperor's brain.—*Hebraist.*

**MEANINGS OF WORDS.**—How many

words men have dragged down upon with themselves, and made partakers more or less, of their own fall! Having originally an honorable significance, they have yet, with the deterioration and degeneration of those that used them, or those about whom they were used, deteriorated or degenerated thereto. What a multitude of words, originally harmless, have assumed a harmful meaning, as the secondary lease; how many words have acquired an unworthy. The "knave" once meant no more than a lad, (nor does it now in German mean more;) "villain" than peasant; "boor" was only a farmer; a "varlet" was but a serving-man; a "menial" one of the "many" or "household" a "churl" but a strong fellow; a "minion" a favourite; "man is 'God's dearest minion," (Sylvester.) "Time-server" was used 200 years ago quite as often for one in an honourable sense in a dishonourable sense, "serving his time" "Conceits" had once nothing concealed in them; "officious" had reference to offices of kindness, and not to busy meddling; "moody" was that which pertained to man's mood without any gloom or sullenness implied. "Demare" (*des mœurs*, of good manners) conveyed no hint, as it does now, of an overdoing of the outward demonstrations of modesty. In "crafty" and "cunning" there was nothing of crooked wisdom implied, but only knowledge and skill; "craft," indeed still retains very often its more honourable use, a man's "craft" being his skill; and then the trade in which he is well skilled. And think you that Magdalene could have ever given "maudlin" in its recent contemptuous application, if the tears of penitence and weeping had been held in due honour by the world?

**RANGE OF SOUND.**—Peshel gives 370 miles as the greatest known distance to which sound has been carried in the air. This was when the awful explosion at St. Vincent's was heard at Demerara. The cannonading of the battle of Jena was heard in the fields near Dresden, a distance of 100 miles, and in the case-mates of the fortress it was very distinct. The bombardment of Antwerp is said to have been heard in the mines of Saragossa, 370 miles distant.