

## HOME CIRCLE.

## THE MYSTERIES OF SHOES AND STOCKINGS.

Throwing the shoe after the wedded pair was also, no doubt intended as an augury of long life to the bride. In Yorkshire the ceremony of shoe throwing is termed "thrashing," and the older the shoe the greater the luck; and in some parts of Kent the mode of procedure is somewhat peculiar. After the departure of the bride and bridegroom the single ladies are drawn up in one row, and the bachelors in another. When thus arranged, an old shoe is thrown as far back as possible, which the fair sex run for: the winner being considered to have the best chance of marriage. She then throws the shoe at the gentlemen, when the first who gets it is believed to have the same chance of matrimony. A somewhat similar custom prevails in Germany, where the bride's shoe is thrown among the guests at the wedding, the person who succeeds in catching it being supposed to have every prospect of a speedy marriage.

Many auguries are still gathered from the shoe. Thus young girls on going to bed at night place their shoes at right angles to one another, in the form of the letter T, repeating the rhyme:

"Hoping this night my true love to see,  
I place my shoe in the form of a T."

As in the case of the stocking, great importance is attached by many superstitious persons as to which shoe they put on first, in allusion to which Butler, in his "Hudibras," says:

"Augustus, having b' oversight  
Put on his left shoe 'fore his right,  
Had like to have been slain that day  
By soldiers mutin'ing for pay."

An old writer, speaking of Jewish customs, tells us that "some of them observe, in dressing themselves in the morning, to put on the right stocking and right shoe first, without tying it. Then afterwards to put on the left shoe, and so return to the right; that so they may begin and end with the right one, which they account to be the most fortunate." A Suffolk doggerel respecting the "wear of shoes" teaches us the following:

"Tip at the toe: live to woe;  
Wear at the side: live to be a bride;  
Wear at the ball: live to spend all;  
Wear at the heel: live to save a deal."

Among some of the many charms in which the shoe has been found efficacious, may be mentioned one practised in the north of England, where the peasantry, to cure cramp, are in the habit of laying their shoes across to avert it.—*Domestic Folk-Lore.*

## HUMOUR AT HOME.

A good thing to have in the house is a sense of humour, or the capacity to see a little fun lurking under the humdrum cares and work of life. We all know how it brightens up things generally to have a lively, witty companion, who sees the ridiculous points of things and who can turn an annoyance into an occasion for laughter. It is a great deal better to laugh over some domestic mishaps than to cry or scold over them. Many homes are dull because they are allowed to become too deeply impressed with the cares and responsibilities of life to recognize its bright side and especially its mirthful side. Into such a household, good but dull, the advent of a witty, humorous friend is like sunshine on a cloudy day. While it is always oppressive to hear persons constantly trying to say witty and funny things, it is comfortable to see what a brightener a little fun is—to make an effort to have some at home. It is well to turn off an impatient question sometimes, and to regard it from a humorous point of view, instead of becoming irritated about it. "Wife, what is the reason I can never find a clean shirt?" exclaimed a good but rather impatient husband, after rummaging all through the wrong drawers. His wife looked at him steadily for a moment, half inclined to be provoked, then with a comical look she said, "I never could guess conundrums. I give it up." Then he laughed, and they both laughed, and she went and got his shirt, and he felt ashamed of himself and kissed her, and then they both felt happy; so what might have been an occasion for hard words and unkind feelings became just the contrary, all through the little vein of humour that had cropped out to the surface. Some children have a peculiar faculty for a humorous turn to things when they are reproved. It does just as well to laugh things off as to scold them off. Laughter is better than tears. Let us have a little more of it at home.

## THE PATHOS OF LIFE.

The pathos of life lies but little below the surface; the loving heart feels it all.

While I was in college I was impressed very deeply by an incident illustrating the pathos of these facts, which needs only to be known to be felt. I had observed a large Newfoundland dog about the dormitories for nearly a week. One cloudy afternoon an old man came wearily into the yard and enquired for the dog. The wild ones saw a chance for a little diversion, and so the dog was allowed to look benignly down from the attic windows upon his master. The old man trudged up the long flights of steps, but when he reached the room he saw the dog playing leap-frog with the boys on the campus. Again he patiently descended, and the chase was kept up until the old man saw it was of no use. It afforded great sport for the thoughtless, but there were some among the scores looking on whose hearts and tongues protested.

"Boys," said the old man, "this looks like sport to you, but if you only understood the circumstances, you'd feel more like crying than like laughing. My wife and I had a little granddaughter a week ago, but we haven't now. She died last Saturday. The dog was a great favourite with her. He stayed in her room all through her sickness, and she

would stroke him with great tenderness when she was almost too feeble to raise her hand. While she was dying, she said: 'Grandma, you'll keep Rover to remember me by—won't you, grandma? Be good to Rover, and we'll all meet in heaven'; and now grandma is very lonesome without her little girl, and she wants the dog. He ran away as soon as the little girl died, and I have been searching for him ever since. Please, boys, let me take him home, for we have nobody to care for but the dog." His voice choked, while tears started in many eyes. Quickly the dog was given up; a hat was passed, and substantial tokens of the boys' repentance were presented the old man; and while he trudged away followed closely by his dog, the sun broke through the clouds, for it was about to set, and flung a flood of golden rays upon the college campus and its buildings, lighted up the old man's face as he made an adieu, and seemed to be the benediction of heaven on the scene. I shall never forget it.—*Rev. G. L. White.*

## TENNYSON'S NEW SONG, FOR THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

First pledge our Queen, this solemn night,  
Then drink to England, every guest;  
That man's the best cosmopolite,  
Who loves his native country best;  
May Freedom's oak forever live,  
With larger life from day to day;  
That man's the true conservative  
Who lope the mouldered branch away.  
Hands all round! God the traitor's hope confound!  
To the great cause of Freedom drink, my friends,  
And the great name of England round and round.

To all the loyal hearts who long  
To keep our English Empire whole!  
To all our noble sons—the strong  
New England of the Southern Pole!  
To England under Indian skies,  
To those dark millions of her realm!  
To Canada, whom we love and prize,  
Whatever statesman hold the helm.  
Hands all round! God the traitor's hope confound!  
To the great name of England drink, my friends,  
And all her glorious colonies round and round.

To all our statesmen, so they be  
True leaders of the land's desire!  
To both our Houses, may they see  
Beyond the borough and the shire!  
We sailed wherever ship could sail,  
We founded many a mighty State,  
Pray God our greatness may not fail  
Through craven fears of being great.  
Hands all round! God the traitor's hope confound!  
To the great cause of Freedom drink, my friends,  
And the great name of England round and round.

## LAW OF BRANCHES OVERHANGING NEIGHBOURS.

Two persons own land separated by a line fence, which is common property between the two parties. One has an apple tree on his side of the fence, whose limbs overhang the fence on the side of the other. Apples fall on either side. The question often asked is, Do the apples that fall on one's land belong to one or the other, or to both? This subject has been several times discussed, with some contradictory decisions and judgments, but the rules are now pretty well established. If the stem or trunk of the tree grows so close to the line that parts of its actual body extend into each, neither owner can cut it down without the consent of the other, and the fruit is to be equitably divided. If the stem of the tree stands wholly within the boundary line of one owner, he owns the whole tree with its products, although the roots and branches extend into the property of the other. There was an old rule of law that the latter might claim from the yield of the tree as much as would be an offset for the nourishment it derived from his estate, but this is now obsolete. The law gives the landowner on whose soil the tree stands the right to cut it down at his pleasure, and to pluck all the fruit from it while it stands.

In New York State the courts have decided that trespass for assault would lie by the owner of the tree against the owner of the land over which its branches extended if he prevented the owner of the tree, by personal violence, from reaching over and picking the fruit growing upon these branches while standing on the fence dividing the lands. The land of the owner over which the branches extend may lop the branches close to his line. He may also dig down and cut the roots square with his line, if he so elects. In plain terms, if no portion of the trunk is within his line he may refuse all trespass of the tree on his premises, either above the ground or below it. But if he gives the tree license either to extend its roots under his soil or to hang its branches over his premises he does not thereby gain any right to its fruit. He cannot pick it for himself nor interfere with the picking by the owner, as long as the latter remains in the tree or on the fence which divides the property. This right to the fruit does not, however, permit the other owner to come upon the soil on the other side of the line to gather the fruit, and all the fruit which falls without violence to the ground on that side may thus become the property of its owner.—*Philadelphia Ledger.*

## MORNING BRAIN WORK.

It seems strange that the habit of lying in bed hours after the sun is up should ever have obtained a hold on the multitude of brain-workers, as undoubtedly it had in times past. Hour for hour, the intellectual work done in the early morning, when the atmosphere is as yet unpoisoned by the breath of myriads of actively moving creatures, must be, and, as a matter of experience, is incom-

parably better than that done at night. The habit of writing and reading late into the day and far into the night, "for the sake of quiet," is one of the most mischievous to which a man of mind can addict himself. When the body is jaded the spirit may seem to be at rest, and not so easily distracted by the surroundings which we think less obtrusive than in the day; but this seeming is a snare. When the body is weary, the brain, which is an integral part of the body, and the mind, which is simply brain function, are weary too. If we persist in working one part of the system because some other part is too tired to trouble us, that cannot be wise management of self. The feeling of tranquillity which comes over the busy and active man about 10.30 or 11 o'clock ought not to be regarded as an incentive to work. It is, in fact, the effect of a lowering of vitality consequent on the exhaustion of the physical sense. Nature wants and calls for physiological rest. Instead of complying with her reasonable demand, the night-worker hails the "feeling" of mental quiescence, mistakes it for clearness and acuteness, and whips the jaded organism with the will until it goes on working. What is the result? Immediately, the accomplishment of a task fairly well, but not half so well as if it had been performed with the vigour of a refreshed brain working in health from proper sleep. Remotely, or later on, comes the penalty to be paid for unnatural exertion—that is, energy wrung from exhausted or weary nerve centres under pressure. This penalty takes the form of "nervousness," perhaps sleeplessness, almost certainly some loss or depreciation of function in one or more of the great organs concerned in nutrition. To relieve these maladies—springing from this unsuspected cause—the brain worker very likely has recourse to the use of stimulants, possibly alcoholic, or it may be simply tea or coffee. The sequel need not be followed. Nightwork during student life and in after years is the fruitful cause of much unexplained, though by no means inexplicable suffering, for which it is difficult, if not impossible, to find a remedy. Surely morning is the time for work, when the whole body is rested, the brain relieved from its tension, and mind-power at its best.—*London Lancet.*

THE Herzegovinian insurgents have been successful in some recent skirmishes with the Austrians.

VESSELS that arrived last week from Nova Scotia report having passed through miles of dead fish. Prof. Baird, of the Smithsonian Institute, pronounces them the tile fish, a new species found at great depths, which he thinks were killed by the recent storm.

THE Empress of Russia has gone to the summer palace of Iljusk, near Moscow, on account of her ill-health. It is said to be a magnificent residence, that can be rendered unapproachable, being entirely surrounded by mountains, at the foot of which flows the Moskwa.

ATTEMPTS to blow up houses occupied by persons objectionable to the Land League, an affray between soldiers and people, and the barbarous mutilation of a man who canvassed for an unimportant office in opposition to the Land League candidate, are reported from Ireland.

A SECOND attempt was made to destroy the André monument, near Tappan, N.Y., on the 31st ult. An explosion shook the village near midnight, and, upon investigation, it was shown that a nitro-glycerine cartridge had been placed on the monument and discharged. The pedestal of the monument was completely destroyed.

## CANADIAN FARMING:

AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AGRICULTURE BY PRACTICAL FARMERS.

Full Cloth Binding. 436 pp. Nearly Three Hundred Illustrations. Only \$1.50. Worth Double the Money.

The undersigned announces the publication of Vol. I. of the "Ontario Agricultural Commission Report," which is a condensation of the facts as given at full length in a five remaining volumes. In this volume, complete in itself, will be found the results reached by the Commissioners, in fact in its pages is given, in accessible form and conveniently arranged for ready reference the cream of what is contained in nearly three thousand pages.

A glance at the table of contents will at once show that this book covers a wide range of subjects—all of exceeding interest to the farmer, dairyman, live stock dealer, fruit grower, beekeeper, gardener, etc. The following subjects are treated in detail: viz.—Fruit culture; forestry and agriculture; insects, injurious and beneficial; insectivorous birds; bee-keeping; poultry and eggs; general farming; dairying; horse breeding; salt in connection with agriculture; artificial manures; special reports—including fax, tobacco, beans and sorghum; agricultural education and farm accounts; meteorology; the Muskoka district; diseases of stock; stock laws and minutes of the several meetings of the Commission. The whole forming a work

Indispensable to every Farmer, and which only requires to be seen to be appreciated.

The London "Advertiser," in noticing the book, says:—"So specific are many of the details entered into that each chapter may almost be considered a text-book or hand-book on the particular subject concerning which it treats. . . . It is profusely illustrated, and the engravings will no doubt be useful in guiding many readers to a clearer comprehension of the text than they would otherwise obtain."

MAILED FREE TO ANY ADDRESS ON RECEIPT OF \$1.50.

## How to get this Book for a Nominal Price.

## CHEAP CLUBBING COMBINATION.

Subscribers to the RURAL CANADIAN paying \$1.50 to an agent, or remitting the same direct to this office, will be entitled to the paper for one year and a copy of CANADIAN FARMING as described above. The paper alone is worth \$1.00 per year. The paper and book are clubbed at this low rate so that our subscription list for the RURAL CANADIAN may in a few weeks be increased to 20,000 names.

AGENTS WANTED everywhere, to make an immediate canvass liberal inducements offered. Apply to

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON,  
Publisher.

5 JORDAN STREET, TORONTO.