

also to be proud of. Coming, as they did, into one of the most rugged and intractable parts of Canada, they have converted it, by untiring industry and assisted by a kind Providence, into one of the most fertile and flourishing sections of the Province; and they can now sit down, surrounded with smiling plenty, to enjoy a good old age, the results of a hard working, energetic youth.

Miscellaneous.

GREASE AN ANTIDOTE FOR ARSENIC.—M. Blondlot, of Nancy, (France), has lately called attention to a very curious toxicological fact, namely, that greasy matters have the power of diminishing considerably the solubility of arsenious acid either in pure water or in acid and alkaline liquors. Thus, in contact with grease, the poisonous properties of arsenic are very much decreased, and at the same time it becomes more difficult to render its presence evident by chemical reactions. A very slight quantity of greasy matter, according to M. Blondlot's experiments, reduces the solubility of arsenious acid to 1 15th or 1 20th of what it is when in a pure state. This explains why arsenic, taken in the form of powder, remains sometimes for a considerable interval in the body without producing injury; it explains also how it is that in cases of poisoning by arsenic, this substance has not been readily detected in such portions of the body or the aliments which contain much grease. It seems to teach us, also, that cream, for instance, is an excellent antidote for arsenious acid. Morgagni tells us, in his writings, that, in his time, the Italian boatmen used to astonish the bystanders by swallowing, without hurt, large plaiches of arsenious acid, having taken the precaution beforehand of drinking large quantities of milk or eating some greasy matter. As soon as the public had retired they got rid of the poison by vomiting.—*London Photographic News.*

PIN-MONEY.—Towards the close of the fifteenth century, an epoch that marks a transition style in the dress of ladies, pins were looked upon with great favor as New-Year's gifts. They displaced the old wooden skewer, which no effort of skill, no burnishing or embellishment could convert into a slightly appendage. Pins, in that simple age of the world, were luxuries of high price, and the gift was frequently compounded for in money—an allowance that became so necessary to the wants of ladies of quality, that it resolved itself at last into a regular stipend, very properly called, "pin-money."

A CENTENARIAN.—There is at present residing at the village of St. Mary Cray a man named

Joseph Knee, who was born on Christmas-day, 1738, christened on Christmas-day, 1739, and married on Christmas-day, 1782. He is a farm-labourer. His wife lived with him fifty years, and he had three sons and four daughters, of whom only three of the latter are now living. He was born in the parish of Seau, in Wilts, and came to St. Mary Cray at the age of 90, to reside with his son-in-law, Mr. Reeves. The old man is in possession of all his faculties, walks about daily, and takes his glass with perfect ease.—*Maidstone Journal.*

PLANTED BY NATURE.—Some seeds when ripe, are provided with hooks made to each hold of passing animals, which, after a time, get rid of them by rolling on the ground. Those seeds which are surrounded by a succulent pulp, and are swallowed by birds and quadrupeds, are generally favorably consigned to the earth. Most seeds pass uninjured through the stomach and intestines of all animals, with the exception of gallinaceous fowls. Currant seeds, after having been eaten by man, can germinate. Foxes sow the seeds of the cranberry (*vaccinium*) after eating its red berries. Apple and pear trees are often found in ditches and under hedges, proceed in this way, it is said, from fruit which has been devoured by peasants. Farmers are often astonished when, after having, as they think, perfectly prepared their fields, and sown excellent corn, or reaping they find some places covered only with useless oats. In other cases, mammals and birds devour only a portion of seeds, while the rest fall and become productive. When the squirrel shakes the cone of the pine-tree to obtain the seeds, a great number fall to the ground and are lost to him. The inhabitants of Iceland call a particular sort of nut "rat's nut," from the circumstance that the rats gather them in great numbers, and hide them in the ground. But the rats are very often killed by one or other of their numerous enemies, the nuts are left to germinate. Seeds falling into worm holes are sure to germinate, as well as seeds which drop into the subterraneous passages made by moles to ensnare worms and insects. The hog, by treading up the earth as with a plowshare, prepares it for the reception of seeds. The hedgehog passes his life in doing the same service.—*Dindens' All the Year Round.*

GAMR IN THE LONDON MARKET.—The quantities of game and wild birds consigned to some of the large London salesmen almost exceed belief. After a few successful battues in the Highlands, it is not at all unusual for one firm to receive 5,000 head of game, and as many as 20,000 to 30,000 larks are often sent up to market together. Ostend sends annually 600,000 rabbits, which are reared for the purpose; the neighboring sand-dunes, in addition to the which are caught in our own areas, and whose love-cries make night hideous. We are indebted