

## Poetry

### THE DELINQUENT SUBSCRIBER.

One day last week while sad and dreary,  
As we wended, weak and weary,  
Across the unswept floor;  
We heard, at first a gentle tapping,  
Then it became an earnest rapping,  
At our sanctum door.

"Come in," we said; while yet we pondered,  
And in silence we still wondered  
What for us could be in store;  
Then, the door-bolt gently turning,  
In he walked. Our cheeks were burning!  
Thoughts of crimson gore.

"Are you the man who does the writing?"  
(What word will rhyme with this but fighting!)  
Quickly thought we, o'er and o'er.  
"Sir, we are," we gently told him,  
Nodding to the boys to hold him,  
If he tried to beat us sore.

"Then you will please give me credit  
Opposite that little debit,  
For four dollars more.  
I like your paper and will take it  
As long as you will strive to make it,  
As good as it has been before."

We jumped! He dodged! Thus we missed him,  
Or surely we would have kissed him,  
No matter if the boys did roar;  
So seldom treated in this manner,  
We felt inclined to sing hosanna!  
Only this and nothing, more.

## Miscellaneous

A Texan cattle king presented his daughter on her wedding day with 80,000 head of cattle.

Dr. Carver, the marksman, has bought a team of elk, which he intends driving about the streets.

In the bright lexicon of the modern farmer there is no such word as fail. All the threshing is done by machinery.

Little "All Right," whose Japanese performances in this city will be well remembered, died a short time ago in New Zealand of fever.

A clergyman was recently telling a marvellous story, when his little girl said, "Now, pa, is that really true, or is it just prouning?"

The horse which Wilkes Booth rode from Washington, after his murder of President Lincoln, is now owned in Pomfret, Conn., and is eighteen years old.

A Clinton storekeeper recently bought a nice fat duck, which, when he came to prepare it for cooking, he found had been stuffed with sheep's liver.

Probably the best woodcutter in the Dominion lives at Sandwich. He boasts of having sawn recently eight and a half cords in eight hours and twenty minutes.

Jacob Allen Shafer and Johnston Shafer, two noted horse thieves who for a long time have infested the county of Wolland, have been sent to the Penitentiary for three years and five years respectively.

In the northern woods of Michigan the deer are being slaughtered by wholesale. On Thursday four tons of venison passed through Bay City by express, bound for the eastern cities.

At Portland, Me., the other night the police descended on a bar-room and found two colored women, naked to the waist, fighting according to the P. R. rules, in the presence of a large audience of men.

"Have you not mistaken the paw, sir?" blandly said a Sunday Ochesterfield to a stranger who entered it. "I beg pardon," said the intruder, rising to go out, "I fear I have; I took it for a Christian's."

An English court has decided that a servant girl cannot be compelled to attend upon family prayers unless she engaged to do so among her other duties. If she goes to cook, she cannot be made to remain to pray against her will.

When a Hartford lady patted her friend's seven-year-old youngster on the head and

with hounds, upon which the Major replied that "although he could write a graphic description of a run that never had occurred he never could write anything worth reading about a run at which he had been present." Curiously enough, too, he frequently expressed a hope that his end would be in the hunting-field. Major Whyte-Melville has left one child, Viscountess Massereene and Ferrard, who, it will be remembered, visited this country two or three years ago with her husband, in company with the Irish rifle team.

The Rural New Yorker says:—"An intending purchaser should have the horse brought out before him, and watch the animal as he stands at rest. If the owner is continually starting the horse into motion, and urging him to 'show off,' something may be suspected, because it is when the horse is at perfect rest that his weak points are divulged. If the horse be sound he will stand square on his limbs, without moving any of them, the feet being placed flat upon the ground, and all his legs plumb and naturally posed. If one foot be thrown forward, with the toe pointing to the ground, and the heel raised, or if the foot be lifted from the ground, and the weight taken from it, disease or tenderness may be suspected."

### BRIGHTON AQUARIUM, LONDON.

Among the curious additions that have lately been made to our collection are three specimens of the long-necked tortoise, Testudo longicollis, from South Africa. This tortoise does not differ so much in appearance generally from other tortoises, except in respect of the neck, which is unusually long and flexible. They seem tolerably active and healthy, and are a welcome addition in our tropical department; and, what with alligators, crocodiles, a variety of water tortoises, etc., we shall soon be able to furnish a lagoon if needed.

In the fish way we have a live shad in the herring tank; we had two but one died. They have never been kept in confinement before, and are by no means easy to get or to keep alive. It is a very pretty and striking looking fish, and looks like a very large and extra stout herring. I should like to have a shoal of them, but they would not be at all easy to get. We are, however, every year picking up bits of experience in getting and keeping fish, which enable us to keep for a length of time fish which have been many times tried, but generally died off over rapidly. Among other curious phenomena, we have a marbled or tortoise-shell lobster, the shell being most singularly and strikingly variegated in patches of color. It was thought at first when he came in that the peculiarity could not be a permanent one; but he cast his shell last week, and the new carapace exhibits the same singular marking. The young salmon still continue healthy and active, and my hopes of them increase. The smelts, noted in my last, are still doing well, though a portion of them where they lost their scales show symptoms of fungoid disease and as fast as they do I have them removed to the infirmary.

Master Prince, the young sealion, is rapidly growing too big for his tank. He is a very funny chap, as full of tricks and play as a monkey. We used to give him a short stick, like a hoop stick, to play with, and the games he would play with it were very amusing, tossing it up and catching it in full career. Once or twice he nearly broke the windows, he grew so vigorous; then he took to throwing his stick at the spectators' heads, so we had to take it away. Then he got a notion of pulling out the plug in his pond and letting the water off, and we had to sink the plug so that he could not get at it, so now he puts his nose above water, gets a good stock of air and blows it into the plug hole, as if he was trying to blow the plug out at the other side. I watched him for ten minutes the other day, constantly repeating this manoeuvre. He is getting too big for his pond, and it is not easy to say what we can do with him. One proposition was to put him in with the seals, and if he agreed with them we might do so; but we should have to put a heavy wire round, for the seals even now get out sometimes at night, and are found in various parts of the building. Charlie was found up on the terrace the other day. One would almost wonder how a seal could mount two or three flights of steep steps, but he did, and seemed to be enjoying the prospect and

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