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Tripping Down the Field-Path.

BY CHARLES SWAIN.

Tripping down the field-path,
Early in the morn,
There I met my own love,
Midst the golden corn,
All her wiles were blowing,
As in hush she came,
And her golden ringlets
Backward from her face,
Little time for speaking
Had she, for the wind
Blew, soft, or ribbon,
Ever swept behind.

Still some sweet improvement
In her beauty shone;
Every graceful movement
Was made by one,
As the breath of Venus,
Seen, & the breeze of morn,
Blowing thus between us,
Midst the golden corn,
Little time for weeping
Had we, for the wind
Blew, soft, or ribbon,
Ever swept behind.

What we sought to find,
Oh, how heartily I found,
Love's last look morning,
With its dream of bliss,
Still, like waters flowing
In the ocean shell—
Sound of waves blowing
In my spirit dwell.
Still I saw the field-path—
Would that I could see
Her whose graceful beauty
Lost is now to me.

New York Correspondence.

NEW YORK, JULY 25, 1877.

WARRIORS IN SPORTING MATTERS.

It has become a settled matter that there is no such thing as sporting or honor in anything connected with horsemanship. The races at Jerome and Fleetwood Parks are all arranged before hand; and the innocent people who bet on horses may do so with the certainty that the ring have agreed with the owners as to which horse should win, and by how much. Occasionally an honest man undertakes to row, or run, or fight, or walk, or do something, and if he cannot be bought he is disabled in some way, if it is in the interest of the gamblers to do it. A rowing match, which excited much interest among the sports, was arranged between Riley and Courtney. Courtney was known to be the best man, and bets on him were three to one. A little ring of sporting desperadoes took all the bets they could, and an immense amount of money was staked on the event. At noon on the day of the race, Courtney was in excellent condition. He sat down at his hotel to take the little refreshment allowed him, a cup of food to be a part of it. He drank it and noticed that its taste was unpleasant. A few minutes after he was taken very sick; he vomited severely, and fell into a stupor from which he did not recover till night. Riley rowed over the course alone, the judges awarding him the race, and the money in the pools was paid over to his backers. Courtney had been dragged with arsenic. This is no more than is done every day on the race tracks in the city, and is a fair illustration of the honor of sporting men.

ALARMING MORTALITY.

The excessive mortality among children is occasioning alarm. The deaths last week were over 500 in excess of the corresponding week for years, the mortality being mostly confined to children. It is not, as usual, confined to tenement houses, but the children of the better classes have suffered severely. The weather has been unusually severe, and the streets and alleys were never so filthy. The accumulations of last winter were left on the ground till late in the spring, and then were not wholly removed. Under the hot July sun the gutters and back-yards of the densely populated streets in the lower part of the city emitted a concentration of stenches that singly were enough to kill a healthy adult, to say nothing of a weak and jaundiced child. The germ of disease once set afoot was carried into the better regions, and the child of many a wealthy man died as an atonement for his neglect of the poor, "whom we have always with us." The Board of Health, always weeks too late, have taken hold of the matter, and their efforts have, in some measure, checked the disease.

THE SUMMER PLACER.

The blazing sun must be endured by the poor of New York during the week, for they must work to earn their bread. But on Sundays every one of them who can raise the means takes his wife and family to where a mouthful of fresh air is attainable. The poorest go to Central Park, for five cents will take them there. Last Sunday over 100,000 people visited the Park; poor mothers with their sickly children staying all day, having taken with them the lunch and supper, that the little ones might get as much of life as possible to fortify themselves for the intolerable heat of a close tenement house for the next six days. There were 30,000 at Coney Island the same day, and every landing and water route leading out of the city to coast, fresh air was crowded. Fortunately there are many such places about New York, and they are of cheap and easy access.

THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT

is progressing favorably. All the noted orators in the country are brought to New York by turns, so that the feeling is not allowed to die or lessen. Mother Stewart, who started the crusade movement in the West, is here, and is speaking every day and night with great effect. Murphy will open his peculiar work next week, and Gen. Gibson, of Ohio, and other noted ora-

to be held in reserve. The legal part of the work is better organized than it ever has been. The rum-shop that is caught without a license, or that in any way transgresses the law, is held to all the penalties prescribed. And as good lawyers with plenty of money are employed, they worry the sellers terribly. It is no joke to them to be arrested, for the old tricks of indefinite postponements and straw ball are not allowed to work. They have worried nearly two hundred bucket shops out of existence. The excise law which restricts the sale of liquors to lann, is being rigidly enforced; and consequently all the dirty little gin-mills are putting up the requisite three coats in their little dirty back-rooms. The temperance people are working for a decision to block this game, and they will doubtless get it.

LIFE INSURANCE AGAIN.

The Universal Life Insurance of this city, is now in hot water, the State Superintendent having made it the subject of a special report, in which he charges mismanagement on the officers, and recommends that the company be placed in the hands of a Receiver. The Company will resist such a step, and insists that its affairs are in a solvent condition. But suspicion in respect to other companies has so often been confirmed, that the public is quite prepared to believe the worst, and the company is already dead in public estimation. Mr. Furber, the Vice President, is also the financial manager of the Charter Oak, of Hartford, which is pretty generally understood to be in a bad way, although, as in the case of the Universal, its solvency is insisted upon by its officers and by some outside experts besides. But a clean reputation is so vital to institutions whose breath of life is the popular confidence, that to be suspected of weakness or fraud is almost the same as to be guilty, in disastrous effects, and only those companies can hope to prosper, who stand like Caesar's wife, above suspicion.

BUSINESS.

begins to revive with the confidence the new crop inspires. Orders for goods are coming in already from the country that has harvested its wheat. There will be a good fall trade.

PITTSBURGH.

Our Washington Letter.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 26, 1877.

The almost universal feeling of sympathy for the distressed and famishing railroad employees and others of the laboring classes and their families existing here last week, has yielded to one of unqualified condemnation, as a general, at the excesses of and the wanton destruction of property, aggregating many millions, by mobs at many different points throughout the country, during the past seventy-two hours, particularly in Pittsburgh and Baltimore. The demand for their suppression everywhere grows more imperative as the first duty demanded by every interest, a few hours of mob violence having made it obvious to every reflecting mind that the very foundations of society are imperiled by its continuance and that the whole structure of civilization is tottering above the black abyss of communism and absolute anarchy. There has been no disturbance here and very little evidence of disaffection. The moderate crowd of Saturday about the Baltimore and Ohio depot was somewhat increased yesterday. A few ruffian stragglers from Baltimore have made their appearance from time to time, and when not directly under the surveillance of the police, they have made some attempts to intimidate the employees of the road who remained on duty about the depot, usually without success. Excited groups were plenty upon the street corners all day yesterday, and others were collected at the telegraph offices and at the hotels. Nothing was talked of but the strike and its probable consequences.

Opponents to every shade of opposition to the resumption policy were heard expostulating against it as the parent of all the evils from which we are suffering; and the prediction was often heard that an immediate session of Congress would be called and that the Administration would change front relative to its financial programme. Departmental officials took the alarm Saturday night, and it was determined to put the building in a defensive condition. Secretary Sherman being represented as particularly nervous over the situation, having imbibed some exaggerated notions of the danger in passing through Baltimore, not without some difficulty, during the height of the excitement, on his return from his tour up the coast. The apprehensions of the disastrous results of an attack upon the Treasury under ordinary circumstances by a determined mob, are amply justified in the minds of those most familiar with its defenceless condition. The President came in from the Soldiers' Home, attended church and two meetings of the Cabinet, and a portion of the clerical force of the Department were on duty as were some of the Secretaries most of the day. The arrival of two companies by boat from Fortress Monroe and Ft. Foot, had a reassuring effect; but the order commanding the presence of two national vessels, in addition to those now here, was countermanded, and they proceeded to Baltimore instead. The President is represented as

very earnest in his expressions of a determination to suppress the rioters by the employment of all force lawfully at his disposal, but is said not to have encouraged the belief of an early call for the meeting of Congress. But underlying the uniform approval of the authorities' determination to stamp out the insurrection at whatever cost, there remains a conviction that the railroad magnates have provoked the present outbreak by their greed and disregard of the rights of their employees, in their anxiety to declare large dividends and to add to their own superabundant means; and at the proper time they may prepare themselves for such a storm of reproach and criticism as they have never before encountered, judging from the temper displayed here; and the Democratic members of the late Congress may expect a more merciless and scathing review of their work during the last two sessions of Congress than resulted in stripping the government of all effectual means to promptly meet such emergencies as have occurred within the past 3 months, and liable to happen at any time.

The mutterings of displeasure over the policy pursued by the House are heard in every quarter now that its impolicy has been so practically demonstrated since Gen. Howard first took the war-path with a poorly equipped force and one so inadequate in numbers as to invite annihilation; and if the reaction here in favor of a central government strong enough to protect the interests of its citizens against State rights heresy, is a reflex of the movement elsewhere, we may confidently hope for an abandonment of a policy which has inflicted losses in a few hours that exceed in amount all they saved in a year by "retrenchment," and their uniquely economical plan of administering the government.

MAXWELL.

Rural Topics.

[Written for the South Jersey Republican by one of the most experienced farmers, gardeners and fruit-growers in the United States.]

CEMENT AND GRAVEL ROOFS.

I doubt all alleged advantages of cement, or gravel roofs, as in many cases they leak, and require repairs often; and the damage done to the building, if it be a dwelling, is often more than the expense of a tin roof, which when well put on, and painted once in five years, will last a century. There are cases, as in building flat-roofed out-houses, when it may do to put on a cement roof. Here is the manner of making such a roof from the Agriculturalist, as follows: "A cement roof may very easily be made, by having an edge strip all around, so as to leave a space two inches deep all over the surface. The roof should not be more than one-eighth thick, and may be nearly flat. The cement should be mixed with four times its bulk of sand, while dry, water should then be added until sufficiently plastic. The cement is to be laid on with a plasterer's trowel, and finished smoothly. When dry and hard, it may be coated with gas tar and sprinkled with fine sand." I know of no kind of cement that can be used on a roof, or anywhere else, and made a good job with "four times its bulk of sand." It should be half cement and half sand; and I warn my readers against attempting to make a roof, or cementing a cellar bottom, subject to water upon it, with less cement. The gas tar and sand on such a roof as the Agriculturalist describes, is all there is about it of value, and it would be better alone than over such weak and useless cement, because as soon as the tar becomes dry, say in two or three years, it would be liable to crack, then the cement would become wet, and the frosts of winter would destroy it. No ordinary cement, as the "Rosedale," which is extensively used in the Middle States, and other brands from other manufacturers of a similar article, can stand the frosts of winter, when laid in walks, or in any other level, or nearly level position, out of doors, unless protected from becoming wet by something upon it.

A CHEAP AND DURABLE ROOF.

In building a cheap stoop or porch at the rear of a house, the roof may be made of well-seasoned, matched, pine boards, put on very tightly, having six inches descent in six feet, and painted as soon as laid; and when dry apply another coat, filling up all the crevices where the boards were joined together, with paint quite thick, and in a few weeks take white lead and boiled oil, in which about one-quarter of the measure of lead and oil of white sand. Apply the mixture, with an old brush, as thick as it will lie, and not run down from the heat of the sun, seeing that where the boards were matched is made smooth with the paint, and you will have a roof that will never leak, if the boards are well seasoned, and are painted once in five or six years. Any roof not over twelve feet wide can be made of such boards, and they will give good satisfaction. Plastic slate may be safely used for flat roofs on out-houses; but, for a good dwelling-house it is better to cover the roof with tin, if it be flat; if not, with shingles. The cost of tin roofing is from 8 to 10 cents per 100 square feet; and a house costing from \$2,000 to \$3,000 can be roofed with tin for about \$300, while cement, gas-tar and plastic slate would cost

about \$125; consequently, the saving by making a roof of the latter material is not enough to be of any great object.

HOUSE BUILDING.

I will now merely make a few remarks on the frame of buildings, and having built a good many houses, I profess to know something about building—not as a carpenter, but as an owner and planner of houses. Twenty-five years ago no-builder in New York and vicinity thought that any frame timber but white pine ought to be used; but they have got that kick out of their heels; and now hemlock is considered good enough for either city or country houses. Now if any reader of these remarks contemplates building a dwelling, I advise him to use hemlock for the frame, if he lives where it is cheaper than other timber, as it is generally everywhere. Its advantages are: It is durable, lasting 100 years; if kept dry it does not warp as some other kinds of timber do, and when nails are driven into it you find them there, just where driven, to the end of time, I may almost say. Then, 25 to 30 years ago, the majority of country buildings ignored the fact, that timber for houses need not be half as large as was the old custom to use; and to-day we see in old houses enough timber in the frame of one to build three in the modern way. But the climax of folly was the mortising of the sills and girts to receive the ends of studding (timbers); and if there be any one who thinks present-day wood I suppose there are many in the "back woods" who continue this practice, the least offensive epithet I can bestow on such men is to call them ignoramuses. No matter of what class, or how large a building may be, there should be no mortising for the studs, as toenailing top and bottom with tenpenny nails is vastly stronger, much cheaper, and it holds the building together in a great degree. In regard to the size of timber for a frame to a house no matter whether large or small, the corner posts should not be larger than 4x8. For most houses in the country, or in the villages, posts 4x6 are large enough. The sills should in all cases be 4x8 to afford depth and stiffness to the floor timbers 2x8 in size. For large houses the studs should be 3x4; but for small ones 2x4's are large enough.

OLD SHEDS.

Frequently old buildings are bought for the purpose of using the frames in new ones; and the price paid is often about as much as new timber would cost, with the labor in remodeling the old frame, it is double, perhaps, what it would be to frame the building from new timber. I do not consider that a man would be much if say, the gables of the frame of an old building were given him, for the purpose of being used in a new one, even if it were perfectly sound, and of a quality to last as long as new hemlock. It does very well to buy an old building for a "song," from the materials of which some cheap out-houses can be made entire except the roof; but it is always better to buy new timber for a dwelling house.

LICE IN POULTRY HOUSES.

"A poultry house may be cleared of lice, when badly infested, by thoroughly cleaning it, scalding the floor, if of boards, and washing it with self-soap and boiling water. Wash the rest of the house with hot lime-wash, and rub the roosts thoroughly with lard and kerosene oil in equal parts. A small quantity of the grease should also be rubbed upon the wings of the fowls, and upon their heads. This plan may need repeating once, before the vermin are cleaned out entirely. A plenty of dry earth or coal ashes should be scattered in the house."—[Agriculturist.]

REMOVING HONEY BOXES.

At this season of the year the bees in the cage of bee hives, if the bees are populous are generally filled with honey; and the question is, what should be done with them. If removed there is difficulty in getting the bees out, without having the honey taken away by the bees unless one fully understands how to manage bees in such cases. If the boxes be removed and empty ones put in their places, it is doubtful whether any honey be stored in them, unless one lives in a locality where a good deal of buckwheat is growing. If the boxes are perfectly full of comb, and the cells sealed over, it will be well to remove them now, and put empty boxes in their places; but if the boxes are not full of comb, they should not be removed till October or early in November, on a cold morning, when all the bees are down in the hive. Honey in boxes, or otherwise, should not be kept in a damp cellar, and when the boxes are removed in July or August, they ought to be placed in a tight box—one large enough to hold the honey from six or eight hives, and then to be fumigated with burning brimstone, to destroy any eggs of the bee-moth that may be deposited in them. If the honey is not removed till fall fumigation is not necessary.

PEKIN DUCKS.

A few years ago this breed of ducks was imported from China; and, of course, a great deal of lying was published about them to make them sell at \$20 to \$25 a pair, and the eggs at one dollar each; but now the price is down to a moderate figure, because they are worth no more than the ducks we had before they were imported. It is also they are about the same as

the Rouen ducks, and they have no qualities that make them any more valuable than that breed, or the Aylesbury ducks, which are the same color (white) and about the same size. At first some very fine specimens of the Pekins are frequently seen, raised with great care; but when raised in the ordinary way, where they have no pond, or stream of water in which to keep themselves clean, they become dirty, and are not a desirable breed to have; but where they have access to pure, running water it is well to have them, if they do not cost over \$2 or \$3 a pair.

PRESERVATION OF EGGS.

"The most effective preservative for eggs that has yet been proposed is linseed oil, or cotton seed oil may be used instead. By carefully coating fresh eggs with either of these oils, and packing them, smooth end downward, in any dry porous substance, that is a non-conductor of heat, such as chaff, cork cuttings, or maple sawdust, they have been kept in perfect condition and without loss of weight for 6 months."—[Selected.]

Sea-Saw.

Up and down I up and down! a strife of a hemlock plank balanced across a huge log, or, (if we could bear it) on the fifth fence rail, was a chief and exciting sport of our boy-hood days. How delightful, as with an elastic spring of the lower appendages, we went bobbing up and down with quick motion, the air catching our breath with every swing. Pshaw! what a pleasant sensation; good as a plunge bath. They say air is water! Perhaps so; swimming is as good as sea-bathing. Who has not a thousand times experienced the delightful sensation of sudden ascent or descent in the atmosphere. When we were yawning in the water, our families breathed a spell of good humor into us by teasing us up. We have never of our own will, or otherwise fallen upward or downward a very great distance, but so far as our experience goes, we remember that the greater the distance, the more pleasant the sensation; except the stopping at the downward fall. What an indescribable pleasure Prof. Mountain must have experienced in his half mile fall from a balloon on July 4th, 1862, at Chicago. The nature of that precipitation was such that he was wholly unconscious of running his head a foot into mother earth.

But every surprise, occupation and pleasure has its misfortune. Our sea-sawing was not an exception. When the board got on a twist, or slid a little one way or the other and lost its balance, we were suddenly shot upward and turned somersault, or brought down with a fearful scum, which fall left a stinging sensation behind, and gave us a terrible shock from stem to stern, and made us declare vengeance on the boy who went up so suddenly and let us down so fearfully.

In our boy-hood days we were not philosophers enough to see what we have since learned, that our sea-sawing was an emblem of life and society; up and down is the way of this lower sphere, it is the sensation of the world. There is our continual sea-saw in dreams, customs, and possessions. Who will find for us the leveler? Well, to go up, night is good, but to stay up is better, except to those who have no concern for comfort. Those who are striving upward with the shoot of hope and courage should remember that gravitation is downward. Let them beware! They may descend. If they must come down let it be with ease and grace. If it be sudden, a "kerchunk," great will be the sensation on society, and most mortifying the fall to themselves, and what is worse, they may never have wind and bottom enough to get up again.

When you are up look out for the fellows that are down, for with a spring upward they may give you the balance downward; that is the game. My advice to all who are looking upward is this; don't shoot up past all your fellows at their expense, and chuckle over those who go down but endeavor to give all a chance and a turn. How nice it would be if all could go up and stay up—if society could rise to a level. This would be better than to sea-saw, though if I mistake not, men generally enjoy the sea-sawing best. And to those down we have a bit of advice: Don't go up on those who are going down, but on your own honest efforts, or otherwise you may get toppled over and bite the dust.

TIMMY CHIEF.

Port Republic, July 23rd, 1877.

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