

MISCELLANEOUS.

A TRUE LOVE SONG.

BY ALFRED CROWQUILL.

Tell me, charmer, tell me, pray,
Have you sisters, many, say?
One sweet word, ay, yet another,
Have you got a single brother?
Have you got an aunt or two,
Very much attached to you?
Or some uncles very old,
Willing you their lands and gold?

Have you money in your right,
That in case we take to flight,
And your ma and pa be cross,
We should never feel the loss?
Gold indeed 's a fleeting thing,
But when in a wedding-ring,
There 'tis endless round and round—
Settlements should thus be found.

Are your parents young or not?
Have they independence got?
Believe me, as your lover true,
'Tis alone my care for you
Makes me thus particula',
As regards your pa and ma.
Sisters, love, are very well,
But the truth I'll frankly tell.

When a man intends to fix,
He does'nt like to marry six!
Brothers, too, are very well
To escort a sister belle;
But they stand much in the way
When the dowry is to pay:
Then, sweet, I freely own,
You I love, and you alone.

At your feet I humbly kneel,
I have nothing—to reveal,
Fortune's been unkind to me,
'Till she kindly proffered thee.
Speak! and let me know my fate;
Speak! and alter your estate;
If you are, what I suppose,
I'll take a cab, love, and propose.

AN OLD LADY WITH A BALANCE AT THE BANKER'S.—Miss Crawley was an object of great respect when she came to Queen's Crawley, for she had a balance at her banker's, which would have made her beloved anywhere. What a dignity it gives an old lady, that balance at the banker's! How tenderly we look at her faults if she is a relative (and may every good reader have a score of such) what a kind good natured old creature we find her! how the junior partner of Hobbs and Dobbs leads her smiling to the carriage with the lozenge upon it and the fat wheezy coachman! How when she comes to pay us a visit, we generally find an opportunity to let our friends know her station in the world! We say (and with perfect truth) I wish I had Miss M'Whirter's signature to a cheque for £5000. She wouldn't mis it, says your wife. She is my aunt, say you, in an easy careless way, when your friend asks if Miss M'Whirter is any relative? Your wife is perpetually sending her little testimonials of affection, your little girls work endless worsted baskets, cushions, and footstools for her. What a good fire there is in her room when she comes to pay you a visit, although your wife laces her stays without one! The house, during her stay, assumes a festive, neat, warm, jovial, snug appearance, not visible at other seasons. You yourself, dear sir, forget to go to sleep after dinner, and finding yourself all of a sudden (though you invariably lose) very fond of a rubber. What good dinners you have—game every day, Malmsey-Madeira, and no end of fish from London. Even the servants in the kitchen share in the general prosperity; and somehow during the stay of Miss M'Whirter's fat coachman, the beer grows much stronger, and the consumption of tea and sugar in the nursery (where her maid takes her meals) is not regarded in the least. Is it so, or is it not so? I wish you would send me an old aunt—a maiden aunt—an aunt with a lozenge on her carriage, and a front of light coffee colored hair,—how my children should work bags for her, and my Julia and I would make her comfortable! Sweet—sweet vision! Foolish—foolish dream!—*Vanity Fair*, by W. M. Thackeray.

HABITS OF THE ENGLISH IN THE 15th CENTURY.—They take great pleasure in having a quantity of excellent victuals, and also in remaining a long time at table, being very sparing of wine when they drink it at their own expense. And this, it is said, they do in order to induce their other English guests to drink wine in moderation also; not considering it any inconvenience, for three or four persons to drink out of the same cup. Few people keep wine at their own houses, but buy it, for the most part, at a tavern; and when they mean to drink a great deal, they go to the tavern, and this is done not only by the men, but by ladies of distinction. The deficiency of wine, however, is amply supplied by the abundance of ale and beer, to the use of which these

people are become so habituated, that at an entertainment where there is plenty of wine, they will drink them in preference to it, and in great quantities. Like discreet people, however, they do not offer them to Italians, unless they should ask for them; and they think that no greater honour can be conferred, or received, than to invite others to eat with them, or to be invited themselves; and they would sooner give five or six ducats to provide an entertainment for a person than a groat to assist him in any distress. They all, from time immemorial, wear very fine clothes, and are extremely polite in their language; which, although it is, as well as the Flemish, derived from the German, has lost its natural harshness, and is pleasing enough as they pronounce it. In addition to their civil speeches, they have the incredible courtesy of remaining with their heads uncovered, with an admirable grace, while they talk to each other. They are gifted with good understandings, and are very quick at every thing they apply their minds to; few, however, excepting the clergy, are addicted to the study of letters; and this is the reason why any one who has learning, though he may be a layman, is called by them a clerk.—*A relation of the Island of England about 1500.*

CURIOUS AND BEAUTIFUL INCIDENT.—Over the pulpit, in the chapel at West Point, as some of our readers may perhaps have remarked, stands a fine allegorical picture from the true-to-life pencil of Weir. A part of it represents Peace, as a female figure, holding an olive-branch in her hand. During the performance of divine service, one or two Sundays ago, a small bird flew into the church and made several attempts to alight on the branch! A better criticism upon the fidelity of the artist's representation of fair and foliage could scarce be imagined. The same compliment, as our readers will remember, was paid by a bird to Apelles, some three thousand years ago.
Home Journal.

"NOW TO GIVE ME YOUR ADVICE."

Determined beforehand, we gravely pretend
To ask the opinion—advice of a friend;
Should his differ from ours, on any pretence,
We pity his want of good judgment and sense!
But, if he fall into and follow our plan,
We really do think him a sensible man.

Lady Mary Wortley Montague.

SIMPLE REMEDY TO PURIFY WATER.—It is not generally known that powdered alum possesses the property of purifying water. A large table spoonful of pulverised alum, sprinkled into a hoghead of water (the water stirred round at the time,) will after the lapse of a few hours, by precipitating to the bottom the impure particles, so purify it, that it will be found to possess nearly all the freshness and clearness of the first spring water. A pailful, containing four gallons, may be purified by a single tea-spoonful.

AGRICULTURE.

THE ORGANIC PART OF SOILS.

That portion of the common earth usually denominated *organic*, is found by the agricultural chemist to vary much, both as respects quantity and quality, in different soils. In those of a peaty conformation of character, it exists in great abundance, and the same remark applies not unfrequently with like correctness to lands that have been long cultivated and strengthened by frequent and copious applications of invigorating manures. Some of the most productive soils that have been chemically examined, have yielded from ten to twenty per cent. of organic matter, and under the most favourable circumstances, it has rarely amounted, in the richest, to more than one-quarter, or twenty-five per cent.

Some of the most productive wheat-fields in Great Britain, have been found to contain no more than nine or ten parts of purely organic matter in the hundred. A distinguished agricultural writer, in remarking upon this subject, says:

"Oats and Rye will grow in a soil containing only one and a half per cent.; and Barley when only two or three parts per cent. are present. In very old pasture lands, and in gardens, vegetable (*organic*) matter occasionally accumulates so as to be injurious, and overload the upper soil."

VARIETIES OF SOILS.

Some of the most valuable improvements in modern agriculture proceed from the discovery, that all plants do not exhaust from the soil, in which they grow, the same ingredients or component parts of it; and that no two plants of a different kind abstract the same proportion of each ingredient.

Hence, beyond all question, it is established: 1st.—That every kind of soil is, in its natural state, fitted for the production of some one or other of the thousand plants that cover the earth; and 2d. That the addition to it, by human labour, of those ingredients or substances of which any soil is deficient will fit it for the production of plants that require those ingredients.

Careful examination has also shown that silicious or flinty matter not only constitutes a large portion of all soils, but also the largest ingredient in the composition of oats, wheat, Indian corn, rye and barley. It also demonstrates that certain other substances, of which lime is always one, are contained in these and other plants, a very large portion of it entering into the composition of clover and corn.

From these facts, it follows that the addition of lime to soils, from which it is naturally absent, must confer upon them the power to produce those useful plants, especially corn and clover, so far as unproductiveness of them was caused by its absence.

The same may be said of potash, soda, magnesia and certain acids, all of which are ingredients in most of the useful plants.

In this view of our soils, the presence of limestone in large quantities in any country, is second in value to that of no other mineral; not even excepting coal or iron.

For, as the productions of the farmer are indispensable to persons in every business, and as the proper application of lime to the soils which are destitute of it, will convert them into fruitful agricultural districts, the value of lime-stone must be beyond that of any mineral we possess.

Nor does this good effect alone follow the addition of lime or any other single substance of which a soil happens to be deficient. The mixture of entire soils with each other often has the same result. For instance, the carting of a certain proportion of the surface of rich boggy or bottom land upon upland, or the reverse; the addition of pure sand to stiff clay fields, or the application of any other soil to one of an entirely dissimilar character, has generally the same beneficial effect.

In all these cases, the applied soil being dissimilar from that to which it is added, the chances are, even without the certainty of a scientific analysis, the productive substances have been obtained; and consequently that productiveness will be increased.

In this way there is great truth in the remark, that in the hands of a judicious farmer, almost every farm contains, within its limits, the means of its own fertilization.

SHOULD THE AGRICULTURIST BE EDUCATED?

It has been too often thought that little or no education was requisite to prepare the mind to perform the duties of a husbandman—that his natural instincts, together with a "little reading, a little writing, and a little cyphering," were amply sufficient to direct him in the performance of all his duties. And this false view of human improvement is losing ground, and the great mass of the people are beginning to learn the real object to be obtained by Education, yet it is now far from being an obsolete idea. A man should be educated, not because he is to follow a particular trade or occupation—not because he is to fill a particular place or position in society—not because he is to follow a certain profession, but because he is a man. The incentives to mental cultivation are higher than the trades they follow, or the professions they practice. More elevated than the mere dollars and cents, the end too often to be obtained by Education. He is to be Educated because he possesses a mind whose energies, when developed, are capable of elevating him above the brutal nature of the untutored world—multiplies infinitely his sources of enjoyment—prepares him to act his part upon the stage of life—enables him to turn the instruments God has given him to his use—gives him power to appreciate the grand, the beautiful, and the sublime in nature, and finally, to promote the great ends to be attained by civilization. But if there are no inducements to mental cultivation in the nature of man, there would still be other, and wide grounds for its importance. They are in the nature of the farmer's occupation. While the theologian spends years of toil in preparing himself for the duties to be performed in the practice of his profession, while the physician wastes his energies in college classes to learn the nature of the human system and disease—while the lawyer spends years in the study of the common law—while the mechanic must learn by a slow and weary process the art of making goods—to the farmer, whose trade is infinitely more complex—whose profession is infinitely more scientific, no preliminary preparation—no development of the mind—no perfecting of the reasoning powers is deemed necessary. This is an erroneous notion—a fallacy which the sunlight of truth and improvement will ere long dispel. The farmer daily performs operations involving the principles of mechanics—of natural philosophy—of chemistry—of the germination and growth of plants and trees—of hydraulics and hydrostatics, of geology, zoology, mineralogy, and botany—of the changes of climate—and the influence of winds and rains. And all expense has shown, that the farmer whose mind is most enlightened upon these departments of science—whose knowledge of the laws governing their operations is most extensive, has ever been most successful in drawing from the teeming bosom of the fruitful earth the exhaustless treasures it is capable of yielding. It is all important, then, that upon the ground of *utility* alone, the mind of the agriculturalist should be irradiated with the beams of science.

THE EXAMINER

Is Printed and Published by EDWARD WHELAN, at his Office in Great George Street, every Saturday, and sent to Subscribers for Fifteen Shillings a year—exclusive, in all cases, of postage. Half of every Subscription is required to be paid in advance,—and no paper will be discontinued until all arrears are paid.

ADVERTISEMENTS will be inserted at the usual rates—A liberal discount will be allowed to Auctioneers who advertise by the year.

PLAIN AND ORNAMENTAL JOB PRINTING can be done on the most reasonable terms at the Office of THE EXAMINER—the Proprietor having selected for this purpose an extensive assortment of the most modern and ornamental Job Type.

Orders and Communications from the Country, addressed to the Proprietor, must be post paid, in order to ensure attention.