Great Grape Industry.

The management of the vineyard is an interesting study and one which to be successful requires technical knowledge. In the large vineyards, as a rule, the owner himself gives personal supervision to every detail. Sometimes a manager or overseer performs these duties. One of the largest growers in this section tells me that the most successful grower is the foreigner, who, with his family of eight or ten, comes and leases or buys 25 or 50 acres of land, each member of the family having his or her part in the work to perform from spring until picking time, while the winter is devoted to the making of the baskets. Thus no outside expenditure is incurred, and when the grapes are sold the proceeds return to the family as the profit on the in dividual labor of each member, quite in contrast with the large owner, who is compelled to hire help to do each little thing in addition to buying his baskets.

The Concord grape is the only variety of any consequence raised in this region, and some idea of the magnitude of the business carried on may be had when it is known that the shipments for one year from Chautauqua county alone will amount to 3,500 carloads, 3,000 baskets of 10 pounds each in each car. These are taken from the grower by someone of the numerous growers' as sociations, whose business it is to find market. Strange as it may seem, it is nevertheless true that three-fourths of them go to points west of Chicago, while the other one-fourth travels eastward.

The making of baskets is an important item. Many factories are employed. The price ranges from 2 to 21 cents per basket. Thus the grower who would find his business in any way profitable must, in addition to the cost of the basket, realize at least 1 cent per pound for his grapes, while today it is a common thing to find a ten pound basket on the retail market slow sale at 10 cents. Thus we find that the utmost care must be taken in the management of the vineyard to make it profitable.—Chautauquan.

A Puzzling Paris House.

One of the greatest curiosities of Paris is the house with the double staircase. It does not figure in the guidebook and is not among the places of interest that are photographed, but, for all that, it is of greater interest than many of the things that come within this class.

This house has entrances at 35 Rue Radzivill and at 18 Rue de Valois. It is in the quarter of the Palais Royal—that palace now given up largely to restaurants and cheap jewelry shops, and once the residence of the most licentious of French princes, the regent d'Orleans The quarter is one of the most central in Paris, and all Americans who have been in Paris know it, but the house, which is a few steps from the Palais Royal, the Rue de Rivoli and the Louvre, escapes general attention because it faces on dark and narrow streets.

Each staircase begins on opposite sides of the central space of the house and continued separate right up to the roof They are in a graceful spiral form. The house is nine stories high, a very considerable height for one so old. As you look up to the wall you can hardly realize that there is more than one stair-

The result of this arrangement is tha ne stairway takes you to the first floor artment on the right, the second floor othe left, and so on. The other stairwe takes you to the first floor on the lef the second floor on the right, and so on. You must be very careful to choose the ght stairway when you are going to an airtment, otherwise you may mount as faus the sixth floor and find yourself on thwrong side of the house. It is just asyell then to go to the top and come dwn by the other stairway.

It is efficult to describe the puzzling effect of his contrivance on those who see it forthe first time. No more ingenious cotrivance for exciting profanity and causin confusion was ever designed by architec. The beauty lies in its simplicity, whih gives it an advantage over ecret doors nd such laborious devices.

It is a favoite trick with those who know the houe to take moderately intoxicated friends a see it The man who knows tells his riend to go up stairs. Then he goes to himself by the opposite stairway. When he has gone up about two stories, he lens over the balustrade and tells his frien to join him. The inebriate endeavors t do so, running up and down stairs, bu never able to catch the other. - New York Journal.

The Sultan and Electricity.

The Sultan seems o have a curious years and 8 months. mingled liking for aid a dread of electricity. Some years to he caused to be erected in the groundsof Yildiz Kiosk, a small theatre lighted by incandescent lamps. One day he saw the workmen trenching the walls in order to bury the wires leading from the engine-room to the theatre and stopped the work, insisting that the wires should all be placed in sight on poles, as he feared that otherwise they might be used to produce an explosion!

He has also an electrical boat on a small lake, an English dog-cart driven by electricity, and a tiny electrical tram-car, upholstered in satin and gold, which runs in a circle. It is said that he has never yet ventured inside any of these vehicles; and also that he has forbidden the use of telephones in Constantinople, lest murderous conspiracies should be devised over the wires.

How Gunpowder is Made.

Gunpowder has steadily developed as mechanical skill constructed better and better weapons in which to use it, until today it has reached a perfection of manufacture for various purposer which allow its effects to be foretold in any weapon, even to the time it takes a grain to burn and to the distance it will drive

Roger Bacon's gunpowder was made of saltpeter, sulphur and charcoal. Saltpeter is chemically called niter and is natural product found bedded in the earth in different parts of the world, chiefly in India and Ceylon. Sulphur, too, is found in a natural state in many volcanic countries, like Sicily, while, as is well known, charcoal is made from wood or woody substances by heating them almost to a burning heat in an airtight vessel, thus driving off everything in them but carbon.

Saltpeter, sulphur and charcoal are still the only ingredients of the gunpow der in common use, although a new gunpowder made of different materials is undergoing successful experiment. A mixture of saltpeter and charcoal alone would form an explosive, and sulphur is added chiefly to make it plastic or capable of being pressed into cakes and shapes. All three ingredients have to be purified by the most careful chemical skill before they are combined. Then an exact proportion of each has to be measured out according to the kind of powder to be

For the gunpowder generally used you would find in every 100 pounds, if you could separate the ingredients, 75 pounds of saltpeter, 15 pounds of charcoal and 10 pounds of sulphur, but it would be almost impossible to separate the ingredi ents, for they are not merely mixed to gether as you might mix pepper and salt, but they are ground and rolled and stirred and pressed together by special machines until they are almost sufficiently united to form a single new substance.

This mixing process is called trituration, and the powder is thus made into the form of big flat cakes, called press cakes, and then broken up and screened into grains of special sizes, or ground to the fine powder used for shot-guns and revolvers.

The large grained powders are still furtherstirred together until the grains become highly glazed, and these are called cannon powders. A lighted match may be held to a grain of cannon powder and it will be found almost impossible to set it on fire, but once ignited it flashes off very suddenly and violently.-Lieutenant John M. Ellicott in St. Nicholas.

Home and Foreign News.

Robert Burns' "Jolly Beggars," first edition, a pamphlet of sixteen duodecimo pages, uncut, was sold recently for \$105 to a Glasgow collector.

A sensible plan proposed for marking Queen Victoria's longest reign on record is for every little community to establish a garden, park or playground in her hon-

Peppermint lozenges, which all good Scotch Presbyterians have hitherto sucked in kirk, are being supplanted throughout Scotland by chocolate drops filled

Ulysses's Isle of the Cyclops lying close to the Sicilian coast near Acicastello, has been presented to the University of Catania by the Marchese Gravina, its owner. The island is a basalt rock rising 300 feet above the sea, and will be used as a biological station, the University establishing extensive laboratories on it.

According to recent French statistics, France lost 136,000 men by death through wounds, sickness, or accidents in her war with Germany, while 139,421 men were disabled on the field of battle. Germany's losses were 79,155 dead and 18,543 wounded. The monetary loss is more evenly divided, that for France being 12, 666,487,522 francs, while for Germany it was 8,000,000,000 francs.

On the Glasgow underground railway the experiment was recently tried of doing away with tickets and letting people. ride as far as they wished for a penny. On the first day of the trial, however, many persons got into the cars and spent the day riding round and round. The directors did not have the patience to wait for the novelty to wear off, but re-

stored the ticket system after a week. In Brighton, England, the Christmas dole of half sovereigns was distributed to 160 persons over 74 years of age this year, who, with the exception of one man 102, appeared in person to receive it. The procession was headed by a woman of 97, whom eight persons, 90 years of age or over followed. There were 55 men whose average age was 82 years and 6 months; and 95 women averaging 82

The Parson's Blessing.

In one of the rural districts a Georgia minister was invited to dine with a citizen who, though wealthy, furnished his table poorly. When they were seated the host said:

"Times are mighty tight, parson, and we ain't got nothing much ter set before you, but, sich as it is, you are welcome. Will you ask a blessin' on what you see?' The parson, observing the scant repast

lifted up his voice and said: 'Lord, make us thankful for what we see, and may we be able to find it when we reach for it. Let it not escape us and prove a snare and a delusion. Amen. Thank you for the greens."

West African Colonies.

The massacre of a "peaceful" contingent of some 250 "Kroomen and native carriers," commanded by British consular officers and traders, has brought the development of West African colonization before the public under most lamentable and unfortunate circumstances. Although the event is nearly three weeks old information is meagre and uncertain, and doubtless the real story will not reach the public until interest in the event has died out. Officers and officials of the Royal Niger Company, are required to sign an agreement not to divulge, on penalty of £1,000 any facts which may have been learned "to the newspapers of Great Britain or to any outside person." This agreement is binding 'during the currency of the agreement and for a period of ten years after its expiration." The policy of secrecy seems to have taken hold not only of the of the room attracted his attention. great territory operated exclusively by the Royal Niger Company, but of the coast country covered by the British protectorate. The official report that has reached telegraphic channels states that the expedition was inaugurated to persuade and reason with an obdurate protectionist, the King of Benin, and to induce him to open his country to the trading corporations. It would seem from the result that his antipathy to foreign labor was quite as marked as his fear of an influx of foreign goods. The expedition started from Bonny, in the Niger Coast protectorate, about the first of January. The Pail Mall Gazette on January 13, before the published news of this disaster had reached the coast, discussed expeditions of a similar nature in a broad but somewhat critical spirit. The news then to hand was to the effect that a river expedition on a large scale had been organized by the Royal Niger Company. It was shrouded in the usual mystery, but the definite statement was made that it would consist of some 700 Haussans led by 23 British officers, the commander being a man under 30 years of age. There were also two gunboats, with a number of nine-pounders, sevenpounders and Maxim guns. The Royal Niger Company has been granted a territory of 500,000 square miles, as vast and, with the exception of the precious metals, far richer than Rhodesia. Its members have sovereign and exclusive trading rights over a population roughly estimated at 25,000,000. In appealing for more light on their operations, The Pall Mall Gazette argues that "in the event of the company's forces being defeated, by no means an impossible .hypothesis, British troops will have to be called in and the British taxpayer will be requested to put his hand into his pocket.' Not only the actual operations but the general lines of policy pursued by the company are concealed from the public. The free navigation of the Niger River, guaranteed when the territory was ceded to the company is practically denied, though nominally granted, and the agreement regarding freedom of trade is virtually disregarded.

The company has protectionist leanings almost as strong as those of the royal assassin of Benin. It has operated uuder its charter for ten years, and, although there are evidences of its financial success, the public know absolutely nothing of its operations. "What is going on out there?" asks The Pall Mall Gazette. "We are perpetually hearing of petty wars and disturbances; of villages being shelled and destroyed; ugly rumors reach us; from time to time of oppression, of facts concealed, of huge importations of spirits, races." These may be merely rumors and no doubt the secrecy maintained has magnified many trivial events and set lively imaginations agog in manufacturing news. The Royal Niger Company was European nation thought its immediate safety and future greatness depended on its success in the scramble for African territory. In 1890 a treaty with France secured for Britain control over the Niger River and the coveted territory adjoining. By that treaty the need of the occupying company has passed away, but not so the company. Its influence is now is concerned, its services have been most in that region. Now that the company has become an obstruction it would be unfair to ignore its services in the past. But an effort should be made to break be warned against repeating a mistaken policy.-Toronto Globe.

London's Miserable Women.

General Booth, commenting on the case of an elderly woman who recently poisoned herself rather than enter a workhouse says he calculates that there are at least 5,000 women in London above 50 years of age, who have no dwelling save the streets or wherever they can find shelter. In the season, says the London Mail, they pick up a living by doing odd jobs about Covent Garden or the other London markets. At other times they wander about the city in the early mornings, gathering out bits of rags from the

the cast-out tea leaves for another brew- dung or urine. Stables in which the exing, when they are lucky enough to get a crements are probably treated by this little hot water. Or they eke out their means, are noticeably free from offensive wretched existence by doorstep cleaning odors, as a rule. and fire-lightning, or occasionally sell Kainit sprinkled upon manure tends to watercress and the like. The wandering check fermentation and also to attract crowd is made up of broken-down widows, and hold moisture. One precaution deserted wives and a few of the gaunt | should be observed in the use of kamit; survivers of another class. Each goes it should be kept from under the feet of her own despairing way, but all are united animals, since injury may result to the with the passionate hatred of the work- feet of animals treading on it. It is house. For such poor creatures the Hanbury street shelter for women is provided, and the Salvation 'Army hopes oon to be able to open a like shelter at he West End.

Mrs. Sniffles' Patent Cure.

Sniffles brought his two weeks' spree to a close on Thursday night. He lay on a tation. lounge in the parlor, feeling as mean as sour lager, when something in the corner

Raising himself on his elbow he gazed steadily at it. Rubbing his eyes he stared again, and as he stared his terror grew. Calling to his wife, he asked hoarsely:

"Mary, what is that?"

"What is what, John?"

"Why that-that-thing in the corner, said the frightened man, pointing at it with a hand that shook like an aspen. "John, dear, I see nothing," replied the

"What! You don't see it?" he shrieked, "then I've got 'em. Oh, heavens! Mary,

I swear never again to touch another drop of whiskey." Here, catching another glimpse of the terrible object, he clutched his wife and

begged in piteous tones: "Don't leave me-don't leave your John," and burying his face in the folds of her dress, he sobbed and moaned him-

self into a troubled sleep. picked up the toy snake, and put it away reverently for another time. - Spare Mo- | controlled.

Some German Proverbs.

Even the suallest hair throws a shadow. Science is a treasure; laborthe key to

To sow is not so laborious as no harvest. We generally take men for more dangerous than they are.

By observing what appears ridiculous to a man we may best judge his character. Difficulties increase the nearer we approach our goal.

Write insults upon sand, benefits on

Who bears my faults is my master, though he were my servant.

From the superior qualities of your neighbor there is no escape but love. He is a happy man who can bring the end of his life in connection with the be-

A man who lives for a high idea and brings sacrifices for it is a superior man. A Perplexing Will.

Joshua Hendy, a resident of San Francisco, died in 1888, leaving a large es tate and a will, and ever since the lawyers have been trying to divide the former as nearly according to the provisions of the latter as due regard for their own interests would allow. There are several heirs, and more that would like to be, and no opportunities for delay that ingenious minds could devise have been neglected. One problem has proved a particularly knotty one. It is furnished by a clause that bequeaths to Charles Manner, an old employe of Mr. Hendy's, "one-fiftieth part" of the testator's stock, in the Hendy machine works. Mr. Manner and his counsel really pity anybody who cannot see that "fiftieth" is a slip of of wide-spread disaffection among native | the pen for "fifth," while the relatives are almost amused at the absurdity of supposing that anything else than "fiftieth" was meant. To complicate matters, letters in which Mr. Hendy wrote both words correctly have been found, and the chartered ten years ago, when every chances ar that before the matter is settled it won't matter a bit what the old man had in mind when he wrote his will.

The Care of Farm Manures.

In caring for farm manures, the main object to prevent the loss of compounds containing nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid. From what has been said in connection with the sources of loss of monopolistic and obstructive, but so far fertilizing materials in farm manures, as the securing of dominion over territory | it can be seen that the sources of loss can be avoided by absorbing the liqeffectual in the past. As it is impossible | uid manure, by regulating the process to ascertain what is now going on in the of fermentation and by protecting the Niger country it would be more than bold manure from leaching. The use of litter to predict the future course of colonization absorbs the liquid manure, preserves it to some extent from immediate decomposition, and also holds more or less of the ammonia produced by fermentation thus preventing its escape into the air. through the secrecy that has been so per- Of the materials in common use peat has sistenly maintained, that the public may the largest power of absorbing and holding liquids; peat moss comes next; spent tan and sawdust follow, then comes straw and similiar materials. It has been given as a safe rule to follow that the litter should, at least, be equal to one-third of the dry matter of the food consumed. The following daily amounts for different animals have been suggested: Sheep, three-fifths of a pound of litter; cattle 9 pounds; horses 6½ pounds. In addition to using litter, it is wise to use some other material for absorbing and preserving the manure. Among such materials are gypsum (land plaster) kainit, acid phosphate,

Gypsum (land plaster) has the power of holding ammonia and preventing its tubs of refuse that are put out from loss. It must, however, be moist in or-They collect from the same receptacles gypsum is to sprinkle it on the moist it yet.

therefore, best applied to fresh manure and covered with litter.

Acid phosphate contains a considerable proportion of gypsum, and to this extent, its action is like that of gypsum The soluble phosphate in the acid phosphate tends to unite with ammonia and prevent its loss and also to check fermen-

A mixture of acid phosphute and gypsum is strongly recommended by some, using them in about equal proportions. For average animals, the following amounts of different preservatives may

used daily for each individual: For For For For Kinds of 1 horse 1 cow 1 pig 1 sheep. Preservative OZ.

(land-plaster) 45 Acid phosphate 1

When a mixture of superphosphate and gypsum is used, take one-half or one-

third of the amounts indicated above. One great advantage in using acid phosphate or kainit is that one is adding to the manure an important form of plant food, in which the manure is naturally deficient. The price at which one can get these materials must determine whether their use is economical or not.

Mixture of different manures, such as cow and horse manures, is advantageous, since one undergoes fermentation slowly | Chicago. Been there long?" Then his wife stole gently to the corner, and the other rapidly. When mixed, the conditions of moisture are more easily

Whether stable manure is stored in sheds or in cellars, or is protected in some other way, it is important to observe the following precautions: (1) The manure should be spread out uniformly; (2) its interior should be protected against the access of the air; (3) it should be kept always moist, but not to wet; (4) it should be protected from leaching; (5) some form of preservation should be used in the stables in addition to litter.

A Joke on Uncle Sam.

The lot of the counterfeiter is not a happy one. Hounded as he is by the "minions of the law," there is really no rafe place for him to carry on his business unmolested. He has even been tracked into his lair in the solitude of the government penitentiary at Leavenworth.

The lynx-eyed officers of that institution have just discovered that a gang of daring counterfeiters have been operating for some time within the walls of the prison. It is said that exceptionally clever \$5 certificates were turned out with tools kindly furnished the convicts by the government. Just how long this work has been going on is not known by the offices, but it is believed that Leavenworth is flooded with these spurious bills.

That the joke is decidedly on Uncle Sam there is no doubt. Still, since there is so much talent in the various prisons of the country, why not employ it in turning out legitimate money? Possibly the convict labor question might be settled by converting all government prisons into mints or bureaus of printing and engraving. This would entirely do oway with the dangerous gangs of counterfeiters that now infest our prisons and at the same time turn their service into account for the government.-Kansas City World.

His Grandmother's Gift

A good story comes from Berlin. At a ballgiven there not very long ago a pompous colonel ran up against ayoung officer evidently fresh from the military schools, whose only decoration was a large medallien set in brilliants. "I say, lieutenant, what the dickens is

that concern you have on?" scornfully asked the elder warrior.

"It's an order, colonel, answered the young man modestly.

"An order? Not a Prussian one. Iknow f no such," retorted the colonel jealously. "An English order, colonel," mildly reurned the lieutenant.

"And who in the world gave it to you?" interrogated the other, with his nose in "My grandmother," said the young man

with a twinkle in his blue eyes. The old colonel began to think the young

man was making game of him. "Potztausend, and who way your grand-

mother be?" he exclaimed irately. "Her Majesty Queen Victoria of England," said the lieutenant, whose face was dancing with merriment by this time. It was Prince Albert of Schleswig-Holstein. The colonel got very red in the face and with. drew, with a profound bow of apology, to take a back seat for the rest of the evening. Prince Albert has been making merry over the incident ever since, and even grandmamma herself had a good laugh when she was told of it. - New York Com-

A Good Months Salary.

mercial Advertiser.

manin Kansas employed his father to work for him during December, promised to pay him one cent the first day, two cents the second and so on doubling the amount each succeeding day, and that at the end of the thirty days the boy was surprised to find he owed his father \$10,737.30.

boy owed his father \$5,339,989.12, at the

No Hope for the Men.

Big sleeves are going out, they say, And yet we see them every day Where'er we go. It's plain that the millennium, Although, perhaps, its bound to come,

Is coming slow. And when it does, and sleeves grow small, What will the women do with all

The cloth they've got? Will all the woolen mills shut down, While store men fail, and tailors frown? Man knoweth not.

One think is sure. Men's pocket-books, However levely woman looks, Will not grow fat. If cloth is plenty, what they save Each one to spend at once will crave

On a new hat. Somerville Journal.

WIT AND WISDOM.

Magistrate-"What is your national-

Witness-"Well, sir, my father was Irish, my mother was American, and I was born in a Dutch brig sailing under French colors in Spanish waters—

Magistrate-"That'll do, my man; you can stand down." She had long wanted him to give up

He had readily and steadily promised that he would-some time.

"John," she said.

"Well, Mary," he returned. "If you don't stop smoking before death

you certainly won't after." Any way that he looked at that remark t displeased him.—Chicago Post.

Teacher-"Now Thomas, the square of the hypothenuse of a right-angled triangle is equal to the sum of the squares of the other two sides. Do I make myself plain that way!"

Thomas--"I guess so-ma says too much eddication is what makes you so homely."—Judge.

Banss-, 'From the West, eh?" "Yes sir, from Chidago."

ribly frightened.'

"An, indeed! I spent seven months in "Yes, sir, I am a member of the City

"You don't say so? What street is your saloon on?"-New York Weekly. "Yes," said the army officer, "I can recall two occasions when I was most ter-

"Oh," exclaimed the romantic young lady, "do tell me about them. I suppose it happened when you were fighting the Indians. "No," he replied, "one time was when

when we had our baby christened."-Cleveland Leader. "Now that you have bought and paid for the horse," said the man with a selfsatisfied chuckle, "I want to tell you in

was married and the other time was

confidence that it has only got two faults." "Well, what are they? "When he is in the field he is very

difficult to catch. "Oh, I don't mind that; I'll soon catch him. What is the other fault?" "Why, when you have caught him he

is not worth anything." Tit-Bits. Miss Karson-I suppose that you dominies take a great many notes for your sermons, do you not? Dominie-Well, when the

can't pay the cash we sometimes have to take them or else go broke. Browne-What! you and your wife

never quarrel? Jones--Never.

Browne-How do you account for

Jones We don't live together. Physician-"You see, your son is feverish, madam. Notice the coating on his tongue.'

Mrs. Anxious-"I don't see any coating on his tongue, but I see an ulster in his throat, and his pants are dreadfully

"I understand you were punished in school to-day, Thomas," said Mr. Bacon to his 12-year-old boy.

"Yes, sir," promptly replied the juve-"For what?"

"For telling the truth, sir." "Your teacher said it was for some relections you made upon her age. "That's the way she took it, father. You see she drew a picture of a basket of eggs on the blackboard, and while she

His New Star.

was out of the room I just wrote under

them: 'The hen what made these eggs

isn't any chicken.' "-- Yonkers Statesman.

"What we need," said the manager, "is a new fad.' "Old attractions getting worn out?" ask-

ed the agent. "Yes; they don't draw as they used to," answered the manager. "As a matter of fact the public is getting very particular and somewhat blase. It takes absolute novelty to rouse it to a point where there there is really any money in catering to its wants in the amusement line. We must

find a new variety star.' "Woman, 'I suppose?" suggested the

"Of course." "French preferred."

"Naturally. We must have "cafe chantant" on the bills or it wouldn't draw any kind of a house.

"Well, I think I know where we can get just what we want," said the agent. "I've seen her, and she's right clever." "That's good, but not absolutely essen-

tial," commented the manager. "She has an excellent voice, too." "Well, that won't do any harm."

"Sings with fine expression." "That's better. A great deal depends upon the inflections of the voice and the

gestures.' "And dances well."

"Better yet." "She has a pretty face."

"That'll help a good deal:" "And a splendid figure." "Now you're getting to the really important features. Under a real good rench name, properly advertised, she

ought to make a hit. "Then she dresses beauti-" "She what?"

"Dresses."

"She'll have to give up that pernicious habit if she wants to be a success in a metropolitan concert hall at the present time, unless-well, of course, if her songs and gestures are particularly risque she may show just a little modesty in her dress, but it's better not to take any chances of jeopardizing the success of the whole entertainment.'

An exchange says:—'A smart young

According to actual figuring the smart warehouses for collection by dust carts. der to be effective. The best way to use end of the thirtieth day and likely owes