

SELECTED POETRY.

THE FARMER.

A Farmer's life's the life for me,
I own I love it dearly;
And ev'ry season, full of glee,
I take its labour chearly—
To plough or sow, to reap or mow,
Or in the barn to thresh sir,
All's one to me, I plainly see,
Twill bring me health and cash sir.
To customers the merchant shows
His best broadcloths and satins,
In hopes to sell a suit of clothes;
But oft they beg a pattern;
Which plaid on sleeve, they take their leave—
Perhaps they'll buy—since low 'tis—
And if they do the salshe'll rue,
When paid, sir, with a "notice."
The Priest has plagues as undesired,
When fluttered with a calt, sir;
Some wanting grace, laugh in his face,
While solemnly he's prosing.
Some sneeze or cough, some shuffle off—
And some are even dozing.
The Lawyer leads a harras'd life,
Much like a hunted otter;
And 'twixt his own and other's strife,
He's always in hot water:
For he and friend a cause defend
However wrong must be, sir.
In reason's spite, maintain 'tis right—
And dearly earn his fee, sir.
The Doctor's styled a gentleman,
But this I hold but humbug,
For, like a tavern waiting man,
To ev'ry call he's "coming."
Now here, now there, he must repair,
Or starve, sir by denying.
Like death himself, unhappy elf,
He lives by other's dying.
The soldier deck'd in golden lace,
Looks wonderous fine, I own sir,
But still I envy not his place
When sett'd to the bone, sir.
To knock my head against cold lead,
I never had a notion;
If that's the way to rank, I say
Excuse me the promotion.
The Sailor lives but in a jail,
With all the tick, besides, sir;
Of pilage, founder and of gale;
This cannot be denied, sir;
While I so snug enjoy my mow
Or kiss my wife, and so forth—
When rain and storm the night's deform,
His duty bid him go forth.
A Farmer's life then let me live,
Obtaining, while I lend it,
Enough for self, and some to give
To such poor souls as need it;
I'll drain and fence, nor grudge expense
To give my land good dressing;
I'll plough and sow; or drill in row,
And hope from heaven a blessing.

From the life of Dr. Clark.

Descent of Bird-catchers over the Precipices of St. Kilda.

As soon as we had reached the town, preparations were made for ascending the hills to see a party of islanders descend the precipices for the eider down, and for eggs and birds. Five of these twisted round their bodies diagonally, from the left shoulder to the right hip, the ropes made use of for these occasions. One of these ropes forms the portion of a St. Kilda heiress; it is always a current coin of the highest value, life itself depending on the possession of it. Equipped with these ropes, a strong party, with their dogs, ascended the hills.

At length we reached the brink of such a tremendous precipice, that, accustomed as I have been, to regard such sights with indifference, I dare not venture to the edge of it alone. Two of the people held my arms, and I looked over into what might be a world of rolling mists, and contending clouds. As they broke or dispersed the ocean was disclosed below, but at so great a depth, that its roaring surges were unheard at the stupendous height. The brink was wet and slippery, and the rocks perpendicular to their base; but what was my astonishment to see these intrepid originals, as they might truly be called, sitting on the edge and the younger ones creeping over after the eggs and ailsie eggs.

My attention was now entirely engrossed by the adventurers who were preparing for their dangerous flight:—several ropes of hide and hair were tied together to extend the depth of his descent. A rope of hide at one extremity was fastened like a girdle round his waist, the other end he let down the precipice to a considerable depth, when giving the middle of the rope to a single man who stood near him, he began to descend, always holding by one part of the rope as he let himself down by the other, and supported from falling only by the man above, who had no part of the rope fastened to him, but held it merely in his hands, and sometimes supported him by one hand alone, looking at the same time over the precipice, without any stay

for his feet, and conversing with the young man as he descended. In a very short time he returned with a young fulmar in his hand, and then again descended to the depth of sixty fathoms. Here he seized four fulmars, and with two in each hand, continued to hold the rope as he ascended striking his foot against the rock, to throw himself out from the face of the precipice and returning with a bound, flew out again, capering and shouting, and playing more tricks than I had courage to see; for I expected his love of fame in displaying those gambols to a stranger, would either be the means of pulling the man over who held him, or dashing his brains out, from the violence with which he returned from these springs, if the rope did not slip from his comrade's hand and send him headlong to eternity.

PROGRESS OF MANUFACTURES.

We a few days since saw at the manufacturing establishment of the Providence Dyeing, Bleaching, and Calendering Company, a spectacle which we would not have believed, had it been solemnly sworn to by the most rigid saint in the community. It was the operation of singeing, one of the most extraordinary, yet simple operation we ever heard of. The process is carried into execution to prepare a certain description of domestic fabrics for the caico stamping business, and is simply this: Two or three pieces of cotton cloth are wound on a cylinder of wood, from which they are again taken, and run over the surface of a "red hot" iron cylinder, without injuring it the least.—The iron cylinder is placed on the top of a "fiery furnace," which is kept as hot as possible, and yet no damage is done to the cloth as it passes through the ordeal! This operation we are told is common in England, but it is novel in this country, and he that has not beheld it, cannot be easily persuaded that its accomplishment is possible. After being held this spectacle, if we ever had any doubts relative to the account of the Fiery Furnace, into which Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego were thrown, they were all dissipated at the instant.

The citizens of one of the towns of this State, have from time immemorial, been called "Singed Poles," but how they became entitled to the appellation, we do not know; but if they ever went through the cylindrical operation of singeing as it is managed at the Establishment in question, they must be composed of ice bergs, and clad in cast steel shirts.—*Providence Cadet.*

To dress flax to look like silk.

Take one part lime and between two and three parts of wood-ashes: pour over them a due portion of water to make a strong ley, after they have stood together all night, which must be poured off when quite clear.—Tie handfuls of flax at both ends, to prevent its entangling, but let the middle of each be spread open and put in a kettle, on the bottom of which has first been placed a little straw, with a cloth over the flax, and so continue covering each layer of flax with a cloth, till the kettle is nearly full. Pour over the whole the clear ley, and after boiling it for some hours, take it out, and throw it in cold water, this boiling &c. may be repeated, if requisite. The flax must be each time dried, heckled, beaten and rubbed fine; and at last dressed through a large comb, and through a very fine one. By this process the flax acquires a bright and soft thread. The tow which is off, when powdered up and combed like cotton, is not only used for many of the same purposes, but makes lint for veterinary surgeons &c.

The Charleston (S. C.) Courier, contains a description of the *Table Rock*, in the backwoods, near the North Carolina line. Is about 1100 feet high, and almost perpendicular. Some curious objects are observed on the summit. "Near this spot we observed several indentations on the rock, apparently the track of a horse; one in particular was so well defined that the whole impression of the frog was visible. Concerning these marks there is an Indian tradition, accounting for them in the following manner. At a period anterior to any settlement in this remote corner, the Great Spirit descended to the top of the rock mounted on a beautiful white horse, and the tracks were afterwards shewn in confirmation of the story. Another curiosity which is much more remarkable, is the "Wheel Tracts;" though it bears no resemblance to any such impression. It consists of two parallel lines, extending probably more than one hundred yards along the declivity of the rock, and appears like the track that you might suppose to be made by the claws and feet of a tarapin on a sea beach, except that the prints are nearer together, than if that had been the case. I would mention the "Moss Carpet" with which many portions of the surface of the summit are covered. It is composed of a vegeta-

ble, so firmly matted together, that several square yards may be raised from the rock, without its falling asunder."

From the N. Y. Gazette, May 28.

The launching of the two brick Houses in Garden street, on Saturday last was completely successful. They were moved nearly ten feet, occupied at the time by tenants, without having sustained any injury. The preparation is the work of some time. The two buildings having been put upon ways, or into a cradle, were easily screwed on to a new foundation. The inventor of this simple and cheap mode of moving tenanted brick buildings, is entitled to the thanks of the public. In the course of time, it is likely that houses will be put up upon ways, at brick or stone quarries, and sold as ships are to be delivered at any part of the city.

CORONA OR HALO. The singular phenomenon described in the following article from the Lexington, Ky. Gazette, of the 25th ult., was witnessed in other parts of Kentucky, and also in Washington city.

The most luminous phenomenon of this kind we recollect ever to have seen, was visible yesterday morning. The circles appeared; the first was noticed about 8 o'clock, and continued several hours. It was the smallest and most brilliant, and more than 20 degrees in diameter. It exhibited most of the prismatic colours, nearly as bright as in the rainbow, in which red and yellow were predominant. The outer or largest circle was about sixty degrees in diameter, the colours in which were not so bright as those in the smaller one, and resembled the pale flame of a candle. The third or middle one, was barely visible. The uncommon brilliancy of those coronas, together with the appearance of three at the same time, a circumstance not recollect by many to have happened before, alarmed several who had never read or thought much on the causes which produce the rainbow, or on the various phenomena produced by the reflection and refraction of light. Many were of opinion that it was ominous of some extraordinary event about to happen, consequently, inquiries were made of the aged and learned, as to the probable cause of this uncommon appearance?

THE "BIG DITCH." We were presented with a fine bunch of radishes, of which several barrels arrived yesterday in a western packet boat, for the Rochester market, from Detroit! They are preserved in ice, and are fresh and green. Let the enterprise be handsomely rewarded.

[*Rochester Daily Telegraph.*]

ELEGANT EMPLOYMENT. There is a lace school or manufacture established at Newport Rhode Island, which gives profitable employment in this new branch to 500 young ladies, and the various articles of their ingenious and tasty needle will bear comparison with any thing of the kind ever imported.

[Who can reflect upon the preceding statement and not be delighted with its effect, whereby five hundred young ladies are enabled to earn a respectable livelihood, and preserve themselves against those temptations which beset worthy females unblessed with wealth? There is more in this little item, than in any of the largest speeches ever delivered in congress against the expediency of encouraging domestic industry.]—*Niles.*

Indianapolis, July 3.—Mr. Knight, who is engaged in locating the National Road westwardly, is now within a few miles of this place, with a permanent location. After reaching here he will probably commence running a random line westwardly as far as Vandalia, Illinois, to which point it is expected he will attempt a permanent location during the present season.

[*Indiana Journal.*]

A large public meeting has been held at Chillicothe on the subject of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road, and resolutions were adopted in relation to the extension of the road westwardly. A copy of these resolutions have been forwarded to this place with a request that a meeting for the same object should be held. It is respectfully suggested that this subject, so important in its consequences, should not be neglected.—*Ia. Journal.*

PAMPAS OF BUENOS AIRES. The great plain or Pampas, over which Capt. Head travelled, reaches from Buenos Ayres to the Andes, covering a space of about nine hundred miles. This plain is intersected with rivers and streams, which have their sources among the perpetual snows of the Andes, and empty themselves into lakes in the interior, or find their way into the ocean, through the great rivers Parana and Rio de la Plata. The regions of the Pam-

pas are inhabited by a scattered population of wild and warlike Indians in the south, and of Gauchos, a people of Spanish descent, in the middle and north. Those plains are fertile, and, under good agricultural management, might support a dense population. They afford large pasturage and abound in cattle and horses, the former of which afford the natives their principal food, and the latter they ride on all occasions. Our author divides the Pampas into what he calls the regions of clover and thistles, long grass and low trees and shrubs. The clover and thistles commence at Buenos Ayres and extend one hundred and eighty miles, then succeeds the long grass, which prevails four hundred and fifty miles farther, and last of all, the trees and shrubs, which reach to the base of the Andes. As these shrubs are evergreens, their appearance is hardly changed with the seasons, and the long grass only turns its colour from green to brown, but the clover and thistles country puts on a new aspect several times in a year, as crops of each, spring up successively from a rich soil, grow to maturity, wither and decay.

There are two modes of travelling across the Pampas, one in a carriage of a strong heavy construction, and the other on horseback. A carriage is taken at Buenos Ayres for the whole route, and relays of horses are obtained on the way at post houses kept for the purpose by the Gauchos. These horses are commonly well and restiff, but six or eight of them are attached to the carriage, and each one is driven by a peon with enormous spurs, goring the sides of the poor animal. They are thus all hurried forward at a quick gallop, and the traveller is carried rapidly along from Buenos Ayres to Mendoza. The post houses are usually at a suitable distance for exchanging, but in some instances, they are thirty, and even fifty miles apart. In these cases, the Gauchos accompany the carriage with a drove of horses, which are often changed on the way. Captain Head considers the mode of travelling on horseback much the more independent and expeditious, when the traveller has strength enough to endure the fatigue. Horses are obtained at the post houses in the same way as for carriages, and a Gaucho goes from one post house to another as a guide.

The Gauchos have some peculiar traits of character. They are described by the author as a people much attached to their native soil, seldom wandering far from the but in which they were born, and in which their fathers had been born; hospitable and high minded, possessing few wants, cheerful, and contented, their food is of the simplest kind, consisting chiefly of beef and water, and their habitations are little better than such as are seen in the first stages of civilization. They are built of mud, and thatched with long yellow grass.—[*North Amer. Review.*]

ROAD TO THE OHIO RIVER. Much interest has been excited in some parts of the State on account of the road that is to be located from Lake Michigan to the Ohio river. The section of land per mile which has been donated for the construction of the road will, at congress price, yield \$800 for each mile of the whole distance; and will, if properly managed, effect the object intended. But if the expense of surveyors and commissioners, of selling the land, locating the road and compensating all who may think themselves injured by it, are first to be paid, little will be left for ditching, grubbing and bridging. That this has been the fate of the three per cent. fund on many roads is too well known. It is to be hoped that in the present case a different course will be pursued, for though in some instance the three per cent. fund has been well applied, yet no opportunity should be given for sacrificing what may be made so advantageous to the State. Something at least might be said by appealing to the interested feelings of parties concerned. The course that the road shall take, and the place where it shall terminate on the river, must be important to the holders of land, and they ought not to expect so considerable a benefit without a corresponding sacrifice on their part. Let, therefore, the citizens of those places who are expecting the advantage of the road, first enquire whether they are willing to put their own shoulders to the wheel; if not, they will no doubt call in vain for aid to Hercules. The donation of the General Government will do but little compared with what may be produced by competition for every encouragement to indolence or reliance on other resources than our own, must detract both from our independence and our prosperity.—*Ia. Journal.*

RAGS! RAGS!!

CASH will be given for clean linen and cotton Rags, at this Office.