

The Oxford Democrat

TERMS TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR.

"THE WORLD IS GOVERNED TOO MUCH."

ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS IN ADVANCE.

NEW SERIES, VOL. 10, NO. 1.

PARIS, ME., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1859.

OLD SERIES, VOLUME 26, NO. 11.

Farmers' Department.

"SPEED THE FLOW."

DARIUS FORBES, Editor.

All the arts and sciences pertaining to life, are closely linked together, and are intimately connected with Agriculture.—AGRICOLA.

Board of Agriculture.

The business before the board on Thursday, was the consideration of the cultivation of the potato. Dr. True thought this crop was the most profitable one grown by farmers in this State, unless grass was an exception. The introduction of new and more prolific varieties, had awakened in his neighborhood a new interest in this crop. Some farms grew from 1000 to 1500 bushels in a year. Great quantities are worked into starch. The best kinds for table use, produced the largest amount of starch, but there was a difference in the productions of different years as to the amount of starch produced. For example,—the crop of 1857 afforded only one pound of starch to ten pounds of potatoes, while that of 1858 produced one pound of starch to eight of potatoes. The fine and nice varieties will average, in favorable seasons, nine pounds of starch to a bushel of potatoes, while the larger and coarser varieties afford not over eight pounds of starch per bushel. The mode of cultivation in his neighborhood was to spread the manure on the surface, and harrow it in. This method produced the best crops. The size of the seed used was not considered of much consequence. I have tried some experiments, and I find small seed produced as good a crop as large. I have manured in the hill with a compost of night soil, ashes and plaster, of which I put a handful in a hill, and did not suffer from rot. I manure more heavily for potatoes than formerly. The California potato is the most profitable variety cultivated in my neighborhood. He mentioned a variety recently introduced from Germany, which promises well,—the long red has been mostly cultivated for starch.

The President said, different soils require different methods of treatment, to produce good crops of potatoes as every thing else. His method was to ridge the land when it was wet, and plant nearly level with the surface; when it is dry he furrowed about six inches deep. Corn had the power to adapt itself to its locality, but potatoes have no such power of adaptation. They will have their own way or die. He made his rows three and a half feet apart in the row.

Mr. Porter of Washington County, went into a very minute account of his method of cultivating the potato, which he did with very little use of the hoe, either in planting, or after cultivation, or harvesting, all being done with the plow and cultivator. Cultivation by his method produced from one to two hundred bushels of the choicest varieties to the acre.

The member from West Penobscot recommended changing seed from one locality to another, and stated that his crops failed from continual planting of small potatoes. He considered the Jackson potato the best variety for table use, but the Orono more prolific, though of inferior quality.

Mr. Stevens of Ardenbrook spoke with reference to the depreciation of the production and the quality of potatoes, and that one variety was taking the place of others, as the Jackson that of the Christie.

Mr. Anderson thought green manure the best for potatoes. He gave a very interesting account of some experiments made the past season in the application of manures to potatoes. He manured one acre with green stable manure. He divided it into eight equal parts. To one of three parts he applied a dressing of guano, which produced a large growth of tops, but the amount of tubers was not so large as in that portion to which the green manure alone was applied.

Winter Shoes.

Hall's Journal of Health gives the following sensible advice: "Like the gnarled oak that has withstood the storms and the thunders of centuries, man himself begins to die at the extremities. Keep the feet dry and warm, and we may snap our fingers in joyous triumph at disease and the doctors. Put on two pairs of thick wooden stockings, but keep this to yourself; go to some honest son of Saint Crispin, and have your measure taken for a stout pair of winter boots or shoes; shoes are better for ordinary every day use, as they allow the ready escape of the odors, while they strengthen the ankles, accustoming them to depend on themselves. A very slight accident is sufficient to cause a sprained ankle to a habitual boot wearer. Besides, a shoe compresses less, and hence admits of a more vigorous circulation of blood. But wear boots when you ride or travel. Give direction, also, to have no cork or India rubber about the shoes, but have placed between the layers of the soles, from out to out, a piece of stout hemp or tow linen which has been dipped in melted pitch. This is absolutely impervious to water—does not absorb a particle—while we know that cork does, and after a while becomes 'soggy' and damp for weeks. When you put them on for the first time, they will feel as 'easy as an old shoe,' and you may stand on damp places for hours with impunity."

LITERARY. The report that Adjutant General Webster had been engaged by Bonner to write for the New York Ledger, is incorrect. The report probably grew out of the announcement of Edward Everett's name as a writer for this sheet.

(Lewiston Journal.)

For the Oxford Democrat.

The School in District No. 13, in Fryeburg.

This district is known, in common parlance, as "the Barker neighborhood." On Thursday evening last, I had the pleasure of attending an exhibition at the school house in that district. I can truly say that I was pleased, gratified and instructed. The school is kept by Miss Mary Augusta Barker, a successful and accomplished teacher, and born and brought up in this district. But to the exhibition.

There were quite a large number of declamations by the young gentlemen, some of them delivered with pathos and power, that thrilled the nerves and roused the feelings of the audience to the highest pitch. The young gentlemen and young ladies recited poetry in a beautiful manner and with much effect. The dialogues were aptly and naturally performed to the no small amusement of the house. But the crowning beauty of the whole, was the part taken by "the little girls." They recited and read poetry charmingly, spoke dialogues admirably, and sung in concert enchantingly. Many of their performances involuntarily brought down the house. The affair was got up by the scholars, and they controlled and governed the whole, which made it much more interesting. The exhibition finished with the reading of a paper, the work of the scholars. The writer of this article was compelled to leave before it was read; but has been told it was most creditable, apt and original. This was a town school, and has not yet closed. I am told there is to be another exhibition at the close of the school.

In connection with the subject of this exhibition, I will take the liberty to give some particulars in regard to the school in that district.

The "Barker School District" in Fryeburg is now composed of eighteen families, and this has been about their number for the last thirty years. There is one schoolmaster, and always has been one tanner until recently; he is now deceased. The rest are small, but mostly independent, respectable, and intelligent farmers. Their school has averaged from thirty to forty scholars in the winter season, and in the summer about half that number.

That district has always had a prosperous and flourishing school. Within the last fifteen years, it has furnished twenty-one teachers, who have got nearly all their education in their district school. These teachers have for the most part proved themselves adequate to the task of teaching, and have done themselves honor in that profession. Two of these have studied physic, and are now in successful practice; one has become a lawyer, and has been twice honored, at a young age, to a seat in the Legislature. Two scholars from that district have entered the mercantile line. One has been very successful, and is now doing a large business in this village. He has the entire confidence of the whole community, who have unlimited faith in his perfect integrity.

One of the scholars raised and educated in that district, is now a worthy clerk in one of the stores in this, Lovell village, and although but just become of age, such is his acknowledged worth that he is talked of, and probably may be elected, as one of the deacons in a flourishing church shortly to be established in the somewhat noted village of Lovell. But it was not my intention to write the history of those teachers and scholars who have received their education mainly in the "Barker District," but to call public attention to these facts, in order that profit might be drawn therefrom.

Now, the inquiry naturally arises, what has done all this? I apprehend there are but few districts in this country that can boast of such success in their schools. Why has this school been so successful? Why should that little humble district excel to such a degree? What is the secret spring of their success? There must be some cause for all this. What is it? There is expended every year the enormous sum of \$600,000 for common schools in this State, and yet we are told that we must have a normal school to raise teachers. It would not be so if half the school districts in this State would do as well as this district. The district is located over six miles from any academy, so the success of its school is not from living near an academy.

"I will now try to solve the secret of the success of this school. In the first place they have had no difficulty with any of their teachers for over twenty years. They have uniformly sustained, backed up, and aided their teacher in his arduous and onerous duties. They have been his friend and assistant, instead of his enemy and persecutor, detractor and defamer. 2d. Scholars have given a punctual and constant attendance. 3d. The district purchased several years ago a library suitable for the scholars. 4th. There has been either a library carried on by the people of the district, in which the scholars have been invited to participate, and which they have always attended, or they have had a speaking and spelling school one evening in each week during the time their school was keeping. 5th. There has always been a Sabbath school kept up during the middle part of the season, in which all the children have attended. They have never had any sectarianism to distract and divide them in this regard, but all have united, both heart and hand, in this praiseworthy business without the least regard to sect. Lastly, they have a good share of men of enlarged and liberal views and expanded philanthropy, who have been the guides and friends of youth. All these things have their full share in producing the foregoing desirable results.

Will some of the school districts in this town take the hint from this statement, and go and do likewise? If they will, the object in writing this communication will be fully accomplished. A FORMER RESIDENT. Lovell, Jan. 17, 1859.

From the Country Gentleman.

Breeding Turkeys.

MISSISS. LUTHER TUCKER & SON. The selection of Turkeys for breeding, with a view of improving the breed, is a subject on which there has been but little said, and until within a few years few persons were aware that they were susceptible of that improvement which the efforts of a few enterprising breeders have already shown. It is but a few years since farmers in this vicinity have been heard to boast that their fine flock of fat turkeys at New Year's averaged ten pounds each, dressed weight. How is it now? Unless their turkeys, at the same age, average at least 14 or 15 lbs. each, we hear no "boastings." (By average, I mean pairs, male and female.)

The next question is, how has all this change been effected? I would answer, by simply selecting and breeding from the largest and best, instead of killing these and reserving those for breeders that were small and unthrifty, or late, and perhaps unfit for slaughter.

The rule that like begets like, applies to the Turkey with the same force it does to any breed of domestic animals. The same form and color may be obtained, by a selection and continuous crossing of such as are desired, adhering to the same forms and colors for a number of generations, when in time the breed will become so established as to be nearly similar in all respects. The more compact we can get a turkey the sooner it will mature, the easier it will fatten, and consequently the more profitable it is to those that breed for the market. The object then is to get those of the largest size, with short legs, and broad compact bodies. At least this is the form I would choose.

As deformed ones are liable to throw out those similar, examine them and see they have no deformities, such as crooked breast bones, or hunched backs. Select those of the largest and coarsest bones of this form. See also that they are both wide and deep in proportion to their size. Discard all that have a green unfinished earlobe, especially if a female, for those of this stamp are apt to lay soft-shelled eggs, and seldom make good mothers to set, or rear young ones. Select the earliest hatched and finest from your flock each year for your own use for breeding, and continue this for a series of years, and I assure any one who adopts this mode of breeding, that they will ere long find their account in it.

The improved domestic Turkey as we have them here, are all the different varieties of color but white. I have seen fine ones of a light silver grey; others, yellow or buff; also those between a bronze grey and yellow, or nearly the color of the spangled Hamburg fowls. But the most common colors are jet black, and dark bronze grey; the plumage of the males of the latter color, is glossy, much like that of the wild turkey, but of a darker hue. They have, or those of the latter color have, a slight resemblance to the wild ones in color, but none in form, being broader and more compact, and shorter in the legs, and instead of being wild and shy like the wild ones, they are naturally the most gentle of the turkey tribe; consequently there is no difficulty, let them lay where they choose, in removing them when they wish to set, to any place you may desire. They are as hardy as any turkeys, and their natural docility makes them much easier to manage when rearing their young, than any breed of turkeys I ever saw. E. ALLIN. Poughkeepsie, Ct., Dec. 4, 1858.

Roots for Feeding Horses.

Horses in lively stables, and all animals kept upon dry food the entire year, need a liberal feeding of roots to keep their digestive organs in healthful action. It is owing to the fact of their medicinal or aperient qualities, that we see such extravagant statements as are frequently made up after short trials—that a bushel of carrots are equal to a bushel of oats as food for a horse. The fact, here, is contrary to nature for horses to be kept month after month, and year after year, upon dry hay and grain without grass or roots. Every horse owner should remember this, and let a liberal supply of green food enter into the bill of fare for his horse, that his health may be kept up, nor himself suffer loss from neglecting this precaution. We never yet found a lively stable keeper that had tried them, who did not value carrots very highly. Let the reader who owns a horse, use roots as a "medicine," if nothing more.

[Country Gentleman.]

HIRING A LIVERY HORSE. Keepers of lively stables had not usually the easiest occupation for obtaining a livelihood—their horses have not, certainly. But having received scripture treatment at the hands of one of them while travelling at the west a few years ago, and our stage broke down, (we were a stranger and he took us in,) we cannot help enjoying a joke at the expense of the fraternity. Here is one: A man hired a horse "to go to Dedham," for \$1.50. When he returned he was charged another \$1.50 for coming back. To avoid trouble he paid it. Shortly after he hired a horse at the same stable "to go to Salem," for \$5—the horse to be watered and fed at a hotel on his arrival. He drove there, put up the horse, came back by railroad, and handed over the \$5 to the livery keeper. "Where is my horse?" said the proprietor. "Taking his feed at Salem," was the reply; "I only hired him 'to go to Salem.'"

Culture of Carrots.

For the last six years I have raised more or less carrots, for feeding to my stock in winter and early spring. When I first planted them in the field, some of my old neighbors shook their heads, and gravely told me that my time and labor would be thrown away. As the season proved wet and favorable to the growth of weeds, I found it difficult to keep the "wee-bits" of carrots sufficiently ahead to give them a fair chance, and began to think my venerable friends correct in their opinions. Imagine my surprise at finding my crop yielding at the rate of 600 bushels per acre and not half attended to that.

Some time after the above trial, I saw, in The Cultivator, an account of their being raised on inverted green sward, with little trouble and expense. Being a little inclined to labor-saving, I tried the plan; not, however, until last summer. The sod was plowed on the 10th of May, and planted about the 20th. Dry weather having commenced, the seed came up tardily; a few light dashes finally wet the earth sufficiently to give it a fair start. The patch had no manure, was not hoed, cultivated or plowed after planting. What few weeds came in were pulled out, one man cleaning half an acre in a day. So that the cure and labor was not expensive; nor was the yield extravagant; 400 bushels per acre. Small as the number of bushels may appear, it is twice as great as an acre of potatoes. The whole expense, interest on land included, was only \$16, or 4 cts. per bushel.

I have plowed deep and mixed large quantities of manure with the soil; trenched and manured, and ridged over manured trenches; but have never raised carrots before, for less than 6 cents per bushel; sometimes they have cost me 10 cents per bushel.

The green sward soil was limestone loam. The situation was in the middle of a pasture field, where the sod was heaviest. The practice of thinning to 8 inches, single stands, is one that I do not regard as at all favorable to the quantity or quality of the crop. Four to six good sized roots may be grown in that distance, if the soil is spread in the drill as it should be. If they are allowed to grow too large, they become pithy. I use the orange variety more than any other; it is more likely to yield fair crops in a succession of years. At this date we are feeding milk cows and working teams upon them, with marked benefit. Geo. W. CORRIE. [Cultivator.]

Drainage—Large Barley Crop.

EDS. CO. GENT. Go on, gentlemen, with your good advocacy of thorough drainage. To help you, let me tell of a barley crop this season. The farmer who works my place (in Orrington, Maine) certifies to me that from a field of five and three quarters acres, drained land, he has harvested 260 bushels good sound barley, "round measure." He had measured one acre in the best corner of the field, from which the grain was housed and threshed separately, yielding fifty-one bushels. This is not much behind "a good crop," under English high farming, and, I think, if the sowing had been with a drilling machine instead of a broadcast, Maine would not have been a whit behind England on this crop of about six acres. Except the good drainage, there had been no more than ordinary good cultivation upon what was three years ago a piece of exhausted mowing land, cold, wet, and never fit for spring plowing. The "catch" of grass and clover, with the barley, is very good, and even promising in the future a good cut of hay. I have now more than five miles of drains laid, three and a half to four feet deep, and hope to lay as many more, being well satisfied that I cannot afford to cultivate my soil undrained.

[Country Gentleman.]

The Philosophy of Rain.

To understand the philosophy of this beautiful and often sublime phenomenon, so often witnessed since the creation of the world, and essential to the very existence of plants and animals, a few facts derived from observation and a long train of experiments must be remembered:

1. Were the atmosphere everywhere, at all times, at a uniform temperature, we should never have rain, or hail, or snow. The water absorbed by it in evaporation from the sea and the earth's surface would descend in an imperceptible way, or cease to be absorbed by the air when it was once fully saturated.

2. The absorbing power of the atmosphere, and consequently its capability to retain humidity is proportionately greater in warm than in cold air.

3. The air near the surface of the earth is warmer than it is in the region of the clouds. The higher we ascend from the earth, the colder we find the atmosphere. Hence the perpetual snow on very high mountains in the hottest climate. Now when from continued evaporation, the air is highly saturated with vapor, though it is invisible and the sky cloudless, if its temperature is suddenly reduced by cold currents descending from above, or rushing from a higher to a lower latitude, its capacity to retain moisture is diminished, clouds are formed, and the result is rain. Air condenses as it cools, and like a sponge filled with water and compressed, pours out the water which its diminished capacity cannot hold. How singular yet how simple, the philosophy of rain! What but Omnipotence could have devised such an admirable arrangement for watering the earth? [Scientific Journal.]

MISCELLANY.

THE SNAKE TAMER.

One day, towards the close of the fashionable season at one of the most celebrated of the Virginia watering-places, a man carrying a large box under his arm, made his appearance in the front yard of the visitor's hotel. He was tall and sinewy in person, with the air and deportment of a foreigner. The steady gray eye, and the rigid mould of his features, indicated vigor of will and energy of character. In other respects there was nothing noteworthy in his appearance or movements.

Having approached to within a short distance of the hotel, he deposited his box upon the ground, uncovered it and took out a large rattlesnake, which he held in his hand, grasping it firmly around the body about six inches from its head, and fixing a steady gaze upon its glittering eyes. The reptile coiled its body around the arm of the man, or writhed in slow, wary motions through the air, darting its arrowy tongue with a sibilant sound, through the half open jaws. In a few moments the erect head drooped, the mouth closed, and the subdued serpent lay motionless in the hand of the operator, who during the whole performance, stood erect and silent, in the position he had first taken.

A spectacle so novel and exciting attracted at once the attention of the visitors at the Springs. The ladies crowded on the front gallery of the hotel, and the men and boys gathered in a dense circle around the mysterious stranger, to witness his perilous feat.

To convince the spectators that the exhibition was not a deception, the performer drew forth another large rattlesnake from his box, placed a short, blunt stick upright in his mouth so as to hold the fangs apart, and then inserting another stick beneath the fangs, he pressed them outwardly until their full length was exposed to view. In this condition he carried the reptile round the circle of men and boys, and through the crowd of ladies, that all might see it was a veritable snake armed with fang and poison with which he so bravely performed.

This done, he returned to his first position, placed the snake upon the ground, and commenced kicking at it with great violence, taking care, however, not to strike it with his foot. Quickly irritated by the simulated assault, the snake threw itself into a coil, shook its rattles, and seemed eager to strike its assailant, who, leaning forward, seized and held it up writhing and hissing in his grasp. He looked steadily for a short time into its eyes, when as in the first experiment, the head drooped, the passion subsided, and the serpent remained subdued and still in the hand of the tamer.

He next emptied upon the ground the contents of the box, consisting of a dozen or more large, venomous-looking rattlesnakes, the reptile mass coiled, or glided, hissing and fierce, at his feet. He picked them up one by one, gazed intently, for a short time into their eyes, and then placed some of them in his bosom with their heads and necks protruding as from a den; others he twined around his neck and arms and the rest he seized and held aloft in his hands. The reptiles writhed and twisted and coiled as if tightening their hold upon the person of the performer. Their eyes glittered and their tongues shot forth and back, like tiny arrows from their mouths. But the ominous rattles all were still, betokening that curiosity and not anger, elicited these reptile demonstrations. The snake-tamer, despite of this serpentine girdle, remaining not only unharmed, but apparently quite unconcerned. He had related the mysterious spell of the human eye upon them, and man asserted his lordship over the most cunning of all beasts of the field.

The report of these wonderful feats having spread through the neighborhood, with the offer of a liberal price, by the performer, for live, venomous snakes, of every description, a lad came in one morning to the Springs, bringing a large rattlesnake which he had just caught in the neighboring mountains. The snake tamer paid the promised reward for it, and proceeded at once to subdue it in the presence of nearly all the visitors.

Having cautiously removed the lid of the box in which the snake was confined, and turned it over upon one side, he withdrew a few steps and awaited the result. In a few moments, a rusty and most venomous-looking rattlesnake, of very large size, crawled leisurely out upon the grass with which the yard was covered. It is the nature of this species of the serpent neither to betray fear nor excitement at the presence of man. Deeming themselves secure in the possession of enormous fangs and a supply of virus sufficiently copious and deadly to produce almost instant death in man or beast, they neither hasten to escape from sight when discovered, nor betray the least alarm when assailed. It is even the popular faith that they magnanimously give the warning before they strike, by shaking their rattles, which produces a peculiar, whining sound, startling to the nerves, and alarming to the mind.

The presence of the performer, and of the large crowd which surrounded him, seemed not to disturb or even arrest the attention of the deadly monster, which, having crawled forth out of the box, lay motionless and extended to its full length upon the grass. The snake tamer approached and simulated an attack by repeated and rapid motions towards its head with his foot. The reptile became furiously irate in a moment. Assuming the coil, which is its natural position both for attack and defence, it darted forth its tongue and shook its rattles with the rapidity and violence which produce

their most alarming sound. As the performer continued, at a safe distance, the motions with his foot, the snake soon became almost blind with rage. Its head flattened, its eyes glittered like diamond points, and a fearful prolonged hiss issued from its mouth. The man made one step towards it, when unable longer to control its passion to strike, it leaped forward and fell full length upon the grass, close at his feet. Before it could again throw itself into a coil, he seized it with a firm grasp, about six inches from the head, and holding it up at arm's length from his person, lifted it off from the ground.

The rage and contortions of the now imprisoned reptile were terrible to behold. Through the air, and round and round the arm of the performer, it twisted and writhed the caudal extremity of its body, making, all the time, a monstrous and fearful whirr with its rattles, and essaying every moment to strike his arm, or his person. The spectators shuddered with horror and alarm at the sight but the intrepid experimenter, confident in his art, betrayed neither fear nor doubt as to the certainty of his triumph.

From the moment he first seized the snake, he had looked with a fixed, almost unflinching gaze, into its eyes, which the serpent apparently returned with a look equally steady and fierce. By degrees the contortions of its body became less violent, and its efforts to strike less frequent. The arm of the man was gradually bent, so as to bring the snake by slow approaches, nearer to his face. At length overcome by the magnetic fascination of his look, it lay harmless and unresisting in his grasp. He placed it in his bosom, twined it around his neck and fondled it in his hands. The subdued creature, shorn of its native ferocity yielded itself to the power of the victor, and permitted him to caress and handle it with impunity.

The spectators broke forth into audible expressions of admiration at the accomplishment of this remarkable feat. The performer passed his hat around for a collection, and soon had the satisfaction of receiving it back well replenished with coins—the enthusiasm of the visitors prompting them to make a liberal donation as a reward for the peril he had braved, and the entertainment he had afforded.

Satisfied with his success, the snake tamer vanished from the Old Sweet Springs as suddenly as he had come. In a few days, however, he made his appearance at another and not very distant watering-place in the Old Dominion, where he repeated, before a wondering crowd of spectators, the same feats with his snakes. A new and most perilous addition was destined to be made at this place to the almost fabulous list of his achievements.

A countryman brought him, one day, a rattlesnake, recently caught, which was said to be peculiarly vicious and dangerous. He bought it, and announced his intention to tame it upon the greenward in front of the visitors' hotel. A large crowd assembled to witness the feat. A vacant space being left in their midst for the experiment, a very large and most ugly-looking snake—was placed upon the ground and provoked to anger by a feigned attack with the foot of the performer. At the proper moment he seized it, but almost immediately threw it violently upon the ground, exclaiming that he was bitten in the hand. The crowd quickly drew back, and the stunned reptile lay motionless where it fell.

The man at once applied his lips to the wound and sucked it with great eagerness for several moments. Finding no relief from the pain which he endured, he next made several incisions with the point of his knife, in the flesh of his wounded hand and arm. Then taking from his pocket a large white bean, he scraped and pounded a portion of it into a thin, impalpable powder which he rubbed into the punctures upon his arm. He bit off and swallowed another portion of the same bean. This specific he called the Cedron bean. "It grows," he said, "in the East, and is an infallible cure for the bite of venomous reptiles."

In the mean time the virus, having become diffused throughout his system, began to produce painful and alarming symptoms. The arm and hand, swollen to an enormous size, assumed a livid hue. Vertigo, nausea and stupor—the three most fatal symptoms in cases of assault upon the powers of life by reptile poison—began to supervene. Death seemed inevitable, and almost at hand.

The courageous man refused either to sit or lie down, but walked backwards and forward uttering, occasionally a suppressed groan of anguish. The torture of the pain he endured forced the perspiration in streams from his forehead and face. To the enquiry of some one who asked him if he suffered much, he replied, "Yes, more than tongue can express or you can conceive."

The landlord of the springs, alarmed at the fatal result of the experiment, and apprehensive that the snakes might escape to infect his premises, rushed out edgewise in hand, and with imprecations, to kill them. The sick man whose first care after being bitten, had been to replace and secure the snakes, including the untamed one, in their boxes, seemed to forget his own sufferings in the imminence of the peril which threatened his unsmoothed favorite. Confronting the landlord with bold look and menacing gesture, and protesting loudly against the meditated assault upon his snakes, he threatened to inflict immediate and summary punishment for any harm that might be done them. Awed by the stern visage, and fierce words of the man, the landlord desisted from his undertaking and retired within

the hotel. Such an outburst of passion and combative attitude from one who seemed to be already dying from the bite of one of the monsters which he was so prompt to defend, struck the beholders with mingled awe and astonishment. Was it the delirium of approaching death, or the madness of a wild attachment to the reptile companions of his wanderings, that fired his passions and led to the spectacle which they had just witnessed? No one could tell, but all looked on, amazed and perplexed at what they saw and heard.

It was with the snake tamer, now apparently in the last extremity, as with other mortals in the final hour—the raving passion proved strong in death. Being interrogated as to his feelings and hopes in prospect of impending dissolution, he said that he experienced neither hope nor fear in the contemplation of the great hereafter. He was not afraid to die, and desired to live only that he might be able to prove the supremacy of his art in the subjugation of the snake which had bitten him. That accomplished, he cared neither how nor when the inevitable summons came.

When first bitten, he had been induced, by the persuasion of others, to swallow a small draught of whiskey, which is deemed a valuable antidote in cases of poisoning by the bite of a snake. But no remedy could prevail on him either to repeat the remedy or to apply other specifics known to medical science. He had unshaken confidence in the efficacy of the Cedron bean; and should that fail to cure him, he felt persuaded that it was fated for him then and there to die, in spite of all human aid to save him.

By this time the virus had produced its most fearful effects upon his system. The pain which he endured became agonizing in the extreme. His sight grew dim, his pulse sank to fifty feeble beats per minute, alternate flashes of heat and cold passed over his body, his articulation became thick and indistinct, and both the pallor and stupor of death seemed to be rapidly spreading over both mind and body. Unable longer to walk or even to sit erect, he had fallen prostrate upon the floor, and was lifted by the bystanders and placed upon a low couch, in the corner of the bar-room of the hotel, to die. Fortunately his reason remained undisturbed, and he continued to bite off and swallow portions of the Cedron bean, which, he still believed and asserted, had power to save him. As yet it had produced no perceptible effects. To all appearance the poison was steadily encroaching upon the citadel of life, which seemed already tottering beneath its furious assault.

Several gentlemen of the medical profession, who were present as spectators, now interposed and begged to be permitted to use other remedies, as the patient himself could not fail to see that his own antidote had failed. Roused from his stupor by the discredit thus attempted to be thrown upon his bean, with vehement gesture and earnest words, the intimation against its efficacy, protested his unshaken faith in it, and concluded his expostulation with a blunt refusal to permit other antidotes to be applied, at the same time biting off and swallowing another portion of the Cedron bean.

The spectators could do no more than leave him to his fate. Gathering in a dense semi-circle close to his couch, they stood, silent and with uncovered heads, awaiting the departure of a human spirit to the bar of the final Judge. Stranger though he was to them all, and dying, as they believed, by a rash persistence in the use of an indefensible antidote, the fact that he was undergoing the extreme penalty common to humanity on account of the primal sin, made his fate and his suffering objects of mysterious interest, for the moment, to every one in the room. Death is not only the leveler and the sanctifier, but its presence makes all beholders feel of kin to the victim which it has seized and is bearing to the jaws of the remorseless grave.

Apparently exhausted by the effort which he had just made in speaking, the snake tamer sank back upon his couch and remained, for a few moments, silent and still. A fresh paroxysm of pain having supervened, he groaned heavily, turned his face to the wall and began to mutter like one who talks in a disturbed sleep. Imperial reason had, at length, tottered upon its throne, and the wild delirium, produced by a fevered brain and a tortured body, had come over the sufferer.

He babbled long and incoherently of snakes and Cedron beans, performing his feats with the one over again, and recounting the marvellous cures made in eastern climes with the other. As the shades of the mental eclipse grew deeper, he spoke less and less audibly, until his voice sank to a whisper, and then, by degrees, his lips ceased to move, and he was, to all appearance, dead.

After the lapse of half an hour he began to revive. The respiration deepened, the pulse quickened and swelled in volume, the stupor lifted, like a cloud, from mind and body, and, in a short time, he opened his eyes and spoke. The vigor of his constitution, or the remedial power of his Cedron bean, but more probably both combined, had triumphed. He rapidly convalesced, and in a few days was able to go about as usual. His snakes had been left undisturbed in their boxes, and he proposed to resume his experiment of taming the one that had bitten him. But the landlord and the visitors, satisfied with what they had seen, protested against its being repeated, and he, gathering up his boxes and carpet bag, vanished from the theatre of his recent suffering, as he now does from our tale.

Quills are things taken from the pinions of one goose, to spread the opinions of another.

States Senate.

