THE POWER OF SONG.

HOW IT PUT A STRANDED MINSTREL ON HIS FEET.

A Georgia Negro Found Little Appreciation of His Solicitor in London Till He Had the Good Fortune to Meet a Party of Southern Gentlemen.

"As an illustration of the sentiment awakened by the old songs that belong to the southland," said a Virginian in the corridor of the Grand hotel the other day, "I want to relate the story of an incident that came under my observation while I was in London eight or nine years ago.

"I was a stranger, and the prospect was not a pleasant one, but I happened to see the name of a man from my own state on the hotel register and although I did not know him determined to send my card to his room. Then a happy thought struck me, and I hunted up all the southerners who were stopping at the house and running a string of nine through a number of cards sent the bellboy to deliver them. A half hour later eight more—two from Virginia, four from Kentucky, one from Georgia and two from Louisiana—lined up before the bar, and, well, the friendship thus formed lasted through the week, and a few evenings before my steamer was to sail the party was suggested by the nine from the four ends of the world, who were gathered around a table in a comfortable cafe partaking of a farewell supper.

"In the midst of the noise and laughter he was noticed an aged negro who entered and stole quietly to one corner of the room. Placing his hat on the floor, he swung his guitar into position and attracted our attention by striking a few preliminary chords. Then in a sweet, melodious baritone, he began to sing 'Ella Rea.' Glasses were placed quietly on the table, the noise and laughter ceased, and we all were thinking alike—of home.

"I know I was, for there was a lump in my throat as big as a yam.

"The musician followed with 'Belinda May':

"Lovely Belinda, Belinda, Belinda,
My sweet Belinda May,
I could work in the field
And be happy all the day
If you would only smile on me,
My sweet Belinda May.

"And then the guitar spoke softly for a moment, and I fancied the old fellow's voice quavered with emotion as the sweet strains of 'My Old Kentucky Home' flooded the room with a mist of tender memories.

"The last was filled in a moment, paper money, silver and gold pieces were fairly showered in it, the recipient looking on in amazement. As last he broke out with:

"'Bress Gawd, gen'l'mun! You all must come from home. Yes, sah, gen'l'mun, I knows you do, 'cause dey don' do no such things as dis yuah in dis country.'

"'Where do you come from, uncle?' asked some one, 'and how do you happen to be away out here?'

"'Lemme tell you, gen'l'mun. I come from Geo'gia, an' I was ho'n in Atlanta. You see, I kin sing tol'able well, an one day a Yankee gen'l'man came down our way, an he say as how he wuss go out some called Paris to trubble in Europe in a sort o' minstrel company. Well, sahs, he done tell we all how much money we gwine get, so me an some of de young folks go 'long wid him. He takes us to England first, but de business ain' so good nuhow, so he try Paris, an at las' we go to Germany. Things kepter gittin wuss, an no one no'min we wake up an fin we all sin' gut no manager an no money nuthe'.

"'Mos' to de young fooks dey gits a chance to de winin an sech, but de ole man jes' been workin his way roun de beauty clangin songs dat nobody seems to wander back nuhow.

"'Soon as I see you gen'l'mun tu'n roun an ho'n dis evenin I know right erway you all must come from home, an I wanter thank you gen'l'mun, dese an I done, Gwehmuh! I ain' so I much money in my life befo. Gen'l'mun, do you lowder 'a 'nuff money dere to git de ole man back home?'

"'Well, there's not much more to tell, only the following Saturday saw the old fellow on one of the big steamers with his passage paid to America and enough money to carry him safely back to his old home in Georgia."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Governor Altgeld.

"There is an incident in Governor Altgeld's life," says the Chicago Record, "which is not generally known. Having no money to pay car fare or hire horses, he walked from Mansfield, O., to Savannah, Mo., and when he arrived at the bank of the Mississippi river he had just 15 cents in his pocket. He paid 5 cents for his own fare across the ferry and 5 more for a fellow traveler who was 'broke.' The rest of his capital was invested in a sheet of paper, an envelope and a postage stamp, which were used to tell the girl he left behind him that he had reached that point in his westward journey, and that his heart was true to her."

A GARDEN SEAT.

Wanted to Which It Can Be Easily Moved From Place to Place.

In most large gardens and lawns there are solid rustic seats suitably placed either for the enjoyment of some distant view or the near prospect of bright flowers. We are glad of these rests for the weary and make thankful use of them for a time, but the wish will often arise that we could move them to the exact spot where we desire to sit. On sunny days we often move a stately rocker, or it may be a little coterie of friends wish to sit together for awhile to enjoy the pleasure of a chat in the fresh air, and then comes the need of a movable garden seat, and such a one is here depicted.

Reference to the diagram will make apparent the ease with which even a child can wheel the seat along on the lawn or footpath in a garden. Another should advantage possessed by this special device is its longer back, which folds over the seat and converts it into a seat and day and study for one at any time.

This style of garden seat may be constructed of common deal or any durable wood. If given two coats of paint, it will last for years, especially if housed under shelter when not required for use during the winter months.

MOVING THE GARDEN SEAT.

Ruffle Corn and Drought.

One great advantage ruffle corn has over any other grain in Florida, says a writer in The Farmer and Fruit Grower, is that all the trouble we can plant is after their crops of tomatoes, cabbage, etc., are taken off, and they will be assured of a heavy crop of both grain and fodder to carry their stock over for another year. There is no question now that we have the genuine article at last in Florida, and it has come to stay and will be worth tens of thousands of dollars every year to the poultry and stock raisers.

There are two varieties of ruffle corn, both excellent. The white is the earliest, but the red produces much the largest heads. There are two things very necessary in raising a large crop. One is to get genuine seed and not the scraps trash that has in many instances been palmed off in these past on us, and another thing is do not plant any more grains to the hill than you would common corn.

New Forage Plants.

It is claimed for sesaline that it will grow in all soils and climates and produce more forage than any other known plant. "Sal," says Southern Cultivator, "is results than for have been disappointing to those who have tried it. Lathyrus silvestris, also a new forage plant, has succeeded somewhat better. It is said to resist drought and to be palatable and nutritious. It is hard and sandy lands. As it is a legume and a heavy yielder in hay, it may yet prove very valuable."

Mica Regions.

An interesting geological fact is that the wild and apparently worthless mountain region around Bakersville, western North Carolina, is the main source of mica supply for the United States. Mica mining in one of the greatest industries in North Carolina and has yielded fortunes to those engaged in it. Mica is found in all sorts of blocks of various thicknesses and shapes and can be split into sheets almost as infinitesimal as tissue paper. It is a non-conductor of heat and electricity, and is used in stoves, lamps, etc., and is also used in the form of powder as a lubricant. Its powder is used in the manufacture of wall paper, lamps, etc., and is also used in the manufacture of roofing materials, shingles, etc., and for roofing purposes it is used in the form of powder. It is also used in the manufacture of electrical apparatus, and for the purpose of insulating electrical apparatus it is used in the form of powder. It is also used in the manufacture of the lenses of the lantern of the lighthouse, and for the purpose of insulating the lenses of the lantern