

POOR FARMER JOHN.

Old farmer John is sore perplexed—Nay, farmer John is really vexed—He laments early, laments late—Yet never talked of suicide—For all his laments, he never uttered—Of longed-for lands to pay the price.

The summer comes, the summer goes, The spring showers waste the winter's snow—The white, from dawn till close of day, Receiving night but from the frost; His good wife laments and sighs, Her hair faded lip and cheek and hair.

Across acres stretch away Of woodland, corn and wheat and hay, His cattle roam o'er many a hill, His brooklet turns the graining mill; Yet still he sighs, and longs for more, And grumbles o'er that he is poor.

Four sturdy sons, four daughters fair, Claimed at his father's father's care, He gave them a labor without end, And strove their souls like his to bend Into the narrow channel of thought, To be contented, kind and true.

Yes, farmer John is growing poor; You feel it as you pass his door; His old brown house is small and mean, The roof is warped by crack and seam; The leaning barn, the half-broken door, Proclaim old John is very poor.

No looks, no pictures on the wall; Carpetless rooms and drab hall; Why think it strange such farmer's boys Should seek the city's pomp and noise? Should learn to loathe the night of home, Where naught of joy or grace may come?

Why think it strange his poor, old wife, Who coaxed for him her very life, Should pause, at last, despite his frown, And try to walk the streets of town, Where naught is sold, but all is given?

Go where you will, search earth around, The poorest man that can be found, He who toils, through life to gain, Widest extent of hill and plain; Forgetting all his son's best needs, In counting off his little deeds.

FOREIGN NOTES.

South Africa is going to have a cathedral to accommodate her diamond millionaires.

Candles are almost universally used in Russian railway carriages in preference to oil lamps.

The Liverpool Tramway Company has been fined for neglecting to keep dry and clean four of its cars.

Mr. Cardwell intimates his intention of taking away military rank from paymasters in the English army. They will in future be regarded as civilians—as clerks, in fact, which they are.

Mr. Gladstone again denies that he is a Romanist, and "regrets that it is not in his power to furnish the credulous from any annoyance caused by the impudent repetition of a falsehood."

Victor Emanuel has his carriages made exactly to fit his back. He always drives in the middle of the drive, and is very fond of the plainest food, having a particular strong liking for onions, leeks and cabbage. He never eats at any grand dinner given in his own palace.

The St. John N. B. Globe states that although no organized body of annexationists exists in the Dominion, the number is very large and rapidly increasing. The Globe says leading annexationists are about starting a daily paper in St. John and another in Halifax.

Mr. Stannus, the manager of the Irish estates of the late Marquis of Hertford, brought a suit for libel against the Northern Whig. The newspaper, on the death of the marquis, characterized Mr. Stannus as a "hard middle-man." On producing evidence that he was a "soft middle-man" he won the suit.

Patrick Hickey, a Dublin hack-driver, went to one of the city station houses to deliver up a number of valuable articles which he found in his cab. He was thanked for his honesty, but detained by the officers for being drunk. Poor Patrick!

English love of sport may be shown by the fact that during the past financial year British sportsmen have paid into the Exchequer more than half a million pounds, the items being: Dog licenses, £279,425; game licenses, £182,824; gun licenses, £282,437; and race horse duty, £29,521.

The latest thing in strikes reaches us from Nottingham. It is a strike of the gentlemen who supply anglers with the worms which they use as bait. They have hitherto been in the habit of selling them at the rate of five shillings a thousand. Now, in accordance with the signs of the times, they find it incumbent upon them to demand a shilling more.

Edward Mathews, a tramping boiler maker, lately procured lodgings in Edinburgh by a novel device. He asked accommodations in the police office, but was told he could not be received without a charge. He went directly and broke a pane of glass in a house close by, when he was brought out and got an order for three days' board.

Rome is uncommonly full this winter, and there never were so many Americans in the city. The change in Egypt, and travel up the Nile is quite "dangerous," St. Petersburg was never so gay and brilliant as this season. Nice has lost sixty of its American visitors in consequence of the Boston fire, and the Bowles Brothers' failure; but Gen. Sickles and his wife are there; and his business partner, Mr. Maud, is there; a suspension, at least, of the serious correspondence between the Spanish and American governments.

NOT ALTOGETHER LOVELY. Minnesota has been claimed as the paradise of consumptives, its winters being especially commended for their salubrity and bracing freshness. According to the St. Paul Dispatch, however, the reality is not quite so rosy, for although, as some say, the air is so dry and pure you never feel the cold, and chattering teeth and shivering bones are a rarity, and although it is a fact that fewer people are frozen to death in Minnesota than in any other Northern State, yet, and faces are fearfully common. The Dispatch avers that one is hardly fashionable without some such trophies of the benightedness of a Minnesota winter. Bitter cold does not chill and shake a person, as in temperate climates. It steadily creeps within all defenses and nips to the bone without warning. "Ugh! Prospero and his imp pinching the flesh of some poor pulmonic or rheumatic Italian can hardly inflict torture like this. To continue the picture as framed by our spirited Minnesota artist of the quill:

"Riding along with busy thoughts, a quiet, pleasurable drowsiness takes possession of body and mind, the fence grows distinct, the thoughts wander, weird fancies come trooping about with fantastic forms, the memory falls, and in a confused dream of wife and home the soul slopes out into oblivion without a pang or regret."

It is gratifying to learn, after this, that the shivering process is gradual, and that the sufferer, in such delightful emotions. A winter residence in Minnesota, we should judge from the above, is hardly suitable for one afflicted with weak lungs or subject to rheumatic twinges, especially if he possessed of a sensitive imagination and a weak constitution.—Ex.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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