

Agricultural.

CHEDDAR CHEESE.—Mr. F. W. Collins, Morris, Otsego county, N. Y., exhibited at the N. Y. State Fair some cheddar cheese, equal in value, it is said, to English cheddar cheese, which he sells readily at 40 cts. per pound. We give his process of manufacture:

"Warm all the milk at all seasons to about 90 degrees before introducing the rennet. A curd is thus produced of the proper consistency to make one cheese at that heat. Use calves rennet, soaked in cold water, with plenty of salt to preserve it. When the curd becomes solid, and the whey begins to separate, cut the curd each way with a long knife, leaving it in blocks of an inch square, then leave it a half an hour for the whey to separate and the curd to toughen; then break the curd carefully with the hand, so as to help the separation of the curd from the whey, gently moving it for 20 minutes and increasing the heat to 96 degrees. The process of drawing off the whey now begins. The milk is heated by steam, and the same degree of heat through the season. Keep the curd gently moving in order to retain all of the cream or richness in the curd. In from one to two hours the curd will be sufficiently dry to receive the salt, which is an ounce to every five pounds of curd. It is mixed in the vat and when sufficiently cool lift it into large hoops, and put it under press for half an hour; it is then removed and ground (in a mill for that purpose) into particles as fine as Indian corn; it is then put into small hoops and pressed two days, turning them once in the time. When taken from the hoops they are inserted into scalding brine to form a rind, which is impervious to flies. If the curd is sufficiently cool it obviates the difficulty of the sticking to the stringer. The weight to be applied is 1,000 lbs. to every 20 lbs. of curd. Annotto is used for coloring inside and out, and is mixed with butter for the outside. This cheese is sold in market at wholesale for 40 cts. per lb; size of the dairy, 30 cows, and will produce about 250 lbs. each.—[*Rural American*.]

WOOL IN THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.—A NEW PLANT.—F. Spencer writes from Hawaii to the California Wine, Wool and Stock Journal, that the company of which he is manager has flocks numbering about 20,000 sheep of all ages. Their last clip was "raising 40,000 pounds," which sold there for 21 cents per pound cash. He describes a plant, called by the natives *Oi Oer*, "wholly unknown to the botanists," which grows from 1 to 5 feet high in rich, damp soil, and which when once rooted will thrive in the greatest drouth. Its growth is so luxuriant that the sheep had at first some difficulty in getting through it, but they are so fond of it "that they soon clear their own way and thrive remarkably, and their wool is nearly as clean as scoured wool. This plant made its appearance here about 1849, and has taken possession of about three parts of the Islands. It was first thought to be an intruder, and the cattle would not eat it, but for the last two years they appear to do well on it." Neither he nor any of his employees had seen it, in British Columbia, the Australian Colonies or New Zealand. He says:

"If you wish I will send you some of the seed of this plant; in a country like California I think it would prove of great value to sheep breeders. It would be as well to be a little cautious in planting it where there are no sheep; but on lands used for sheep entirely, you may plant it with perfect safety, and by planting it on many of your plains, which are entirely destitute of feed in your dry seasons, it may prove a source of great wealth to your State. Where you have large flocks of sheep running, it can never get the upper hand. We have here an inclosure containing one thousand acres, which was completely covered with *Oi Oer* five feet high; we put into this field two thousand sheep, and at the end of the year the *Oi* was completely eaten down and the sheep in the finest possible condition, and their wool as clean and yolkly as any sheep I ever saw in the Colonies. We value it particularly on account of its tendency to kill all kinds of burrs. No burr has ever been known to exist here after the *Oi* once covered the ground. I question much whether buckwheat would ever grow where there was any of this plant. *O-i* is the native way of spelling it, and *O-e* is the English pronunciation."—[*Country Gentleman*.]

[CONCLUDED.]
THE LEGACY.

Mr. Andrews and Mr. Henderson were clerks in the same concern; but the former, both in station and income, was considerably the senior, and Mrs. Henderson had long been accustomed to eye with something approaching to envy the superior comforts and even elegancies which Mrs. Andrews enjoyed. Not that there was anything approaching to ostentation in their manner of living; and in truth most of the indulgencies which Mrs. Henderson commented on or coveted were purchased from the comfortable portion which Mrs. Andrews had inherited from her father. It was this which enabled them to send their eldest son to a superior school, and it was from this fund that the excellent governess was paid, who shared with the mother the task of educating a numerous and increasing family. That people already possessed of so much should inherit more, seemed an unnecessary addition, and almost an unfair division of worldly goods, to the jealous apprehension of Mrs. Henderson. But had she known the truth, her envy must have subsided into pity. From the possession of that fatal legacy was the wife forced to date a melancholy and most distressing alteration in her husband; his whole nature seemed changed, and every honorable, generous, and even affectionate feeling, appeared smothered in a passion for gain. Quickly to accumulate the desired capital was his thought by day, his dream by night; and to accelerate this object, he tried in every possible way to curtail all expenses not strictly unavoidable. Gradually, but surely, Mrs. Andrews found herself deprived of numerous trifles which her delicate health seemed to require; their household was diminished, subscriptions to charities withdrawn, their pleasant and commodious house exchanged for a cheaper abode in a less healthy situation; and when it appeared that it was of too contracted dimensions to receive them all, she was told, that she must therefore give up the governess. By degrees the whole expenses of the household were reduced to the sum which was in truth her own, and her husband was not to be prevailed on to extend its limits or allow her to touch his salary. Had honor, honesty, or prudence dictated this proceeding, Mrs. Andrews would have submitted without a remonstrance; her zeal in economy would even have exceeded his; but to feel herself and her children deprived of those advantages to which they had been accustomed from birth, only to gratify a fatally increased disease of her husband's mind, was bitter. But bitterer far was the loss of his affection and confidence—the painful coldness which had insensibly grown up between them. It was after a few years of such a system that a new prospect was suddenly opened, in an offer of partnership from another and a rival house. The prospect was alluring in every respect, the concern was supposed to be peculiarly flourishing, and the terms in which it was made were as flattering as they were advantageous. Eagerly was the proposal grasped by Mr. Andrews, it being superior to his hopes, and much beyond his expectations; and the important step was taken which raised him from servitude to a master's place.

The vacancy which this change occasioned was offered to Mr. Henderson, and by him thankfully and gratefully accepted; but his wife, though now raised to the situation which she had long coveted, found it by no means replete with all the advantages she had ascribed to it, and she sighed as she reflected how little probable it was that any legacy would ever bestow on them the happiness which she believed Mrs. Andrews to enjoy. Satisfied with his own advanced position, her husband paid little regard to her murmurs, for he was now enabled to procure for his children such additional advantages of education as he considered useful or desirable; and he pursued his daily avocations with increased attention and satisfaction, in spite of the restlessness of his wife, whom he vainly tried to inspire with a like contented spirit by reminding her of the superior advantages they now enjoyed to those with which they commenced life. A single glance into Mrs. Andrews' mind would have rendered his arguments a work of supererogation, and done more to convert his wife to his way of thinking than half a year's lecturing.

Being a woman of quick perception of character and great penetration, poor Mrs. Andrews could not, from the first, avoid feeling some degree of mistrust for her husband's partners. Lavish in their own expenditure, indeed indulging in an unbounded profusion, yet

they took every possible method of flattery and strengthening the very opposite foible of George Andrews; praising his prudence, envying his strength of mind, and protesting that, if circumstances allowed it, they would certainly imitate his foresight. These congratulations he received with a triumphant smile, which seemed to speak at once his own self-approval, and his contempt for his weak-minded companions.

Unwilling as she was to judge any one hastily, the wife could not think favorably on those who thus fostered a weakness, or rather a vice, so completely at variance with his best interests and the happiness of all connected with him. She feared the flatterers, though unable to divine their motive, and being now more than ever deprived of her husband's society; she occupied herself solely in directing her household, and giving her children the best education in her power. She imagined that her husband must long ago have realized the sum of ten thousand pounds, which he asserted would be the extent of his ambition; yet she saw no symptom of relaxation in his avaricious habits, no improvement to herself in her own situation. All was grasping, grinding economy, rendered more bitter by the contrast which her husband's companions exhibited.

But a startling and complete termination was at length put to their trials and sorrows, for it suddenly became known that the two senior partners in the business had fled, taking with them every pound on which they could lay their grasp, and leaving the whole concern in a state of complete ruin. Debts to an enormous amount appeared due on every side, and it was evident that the business had long been on the verge of bankruptcy, which had only been kept off for a brief interval by the capital Andrews had brought them. Of course, though clear of their guilt, he was involved in their ruin, and at one blow the labors of the last six years were destroyed, and the money on which he had set his heart swept away forever. The legacy—the source alike of pleasure and of pain—was now become as if it had never been; and the vain desires and ardent hopes which had been founded on it had proved vanity of vanities. But it was a happy blow for him; he awoke as from a dream, and with the demolition of his ambitious projects there came other and better plans and feelings. After honestly giving up every farthing he possessed to the creditors, he looked around for employment to provide bread for his family; nor did he seek in vain. A situation was once more offered him in Mr. Walker's house, and here he began the world again as at the first.

"Well," said Mr. Henderson to his wife, "I agree with you in thinking Andrews a very fortunate man. It is true that he has lost his legacy, but he has gained a lesson which he will probably never forget. And when I see him now so quietly pursuing his business, and his wife with a contented, or rather a happy look, I must class him among the most fortunate men of my acquaintance."

LOSS OF APPETITE IN SPRING.—The decline of appetite in spring is not the symptom, or effect of disease; it is, as it were, the wise forethought of a sleepless instinct which puts out its blind feelers ahead to clear away danger. Instinct that wonderful, impalpable thing, the agent of Almighty power, the instrument of divine love; its lesson is; that the body does not require so much food, hence the desire for it is taken away; and if men could only be induced to read that lesson aright, to practice it by simply eating according to the appetite, by not going to the table if they do not "feel like taking anything," and then resolutely wait until the next meal, and at no time eating an atom, unless there were a decided desire for it, if such a course were judiciously pursued, the spring time would be to us a waking up to newness of life as it is to the vegetable world. But instead of thus co-operating with our instincts, "we take something," bitters, pills, anything that anybody advises as good for "whetting up the appetite." It acts like a charm, we speak loudly in its praise, and a dozen more are induced to follow the example. But soon the bubble bursts. Nature was only drugged, her voice was hushed only to wake up a little later to find her ward prostrated by serious, and as to old persons, often fatal sickness. To avoid spring diseases, then, abate the amount of food eaten at least one-third, and work or exercise with a proportionate deliberation.—[*Dr. Hall*.]

EFFECT OF LIGHT.—Dr. Moor, the celebrated metaphysician, thus speaks of light on body and mind:

"A tadpole confined in darkness will never become a frog; and an infant, being deprived of heaven's free light, will only grow into a shapeless idiot, instead of a beautiful and reasonable being. Hence, in the deep, dark gorges and ravines of the Swiss Valais, where the direct sunshine never reaches, the hideous prevalence of idiocy startles the traveler. It is a strange, melancholy idiocy, many citizens are incapable of any articulate speech, some are deaf, some are blind, some labor under all these privations, and all are misshapen in almost every part of the body. I believe there is, in all places, a marked difference in the healthiness of houses, according to their aspect in regard to the sun; and those are decidedly the healthiest, other things being equal, in which all the rooms are, during some part of the day, fully exposed to the direct light. Epidemics attack inhabitants on the shady side of the street, and totally exempt those on the other side; and even in epidemics, such as ague, the morbid influence is often thus partial in its labors."—[*Telegraphic Review*.]

THE DESERT FROM A RAIL CAR.

We naturally expected to lose all sense of the desert—not once to come under its spell—in our journey through it by rail. But it was really not so. No railway associations obtruded themselves upon our notice, except the long moving shadow upon the sand. We alone seemed to be in the wilderness, drawn along by a power which, from the very scenery through which we passed, had a strange air of novelty and mystery about it. There were no well-built station-houses like Swiss cottages, but only wooden huts at great intervals, which stood alone and solitary in the arid waste, without a name to distinguish them from each other in the boundless expanse of sand. They are simply numbered like milestones. Such buildings fail to give any life to the scene, and excite in us only feelings of pity for the hermits who inhabit them, and whose duties consist, not in counting over breviaries, or in helping forlorn travelers, but in adjusting switches and supplying water and food to thirsty and hungry steam-engines puffing through the sweltering heat. The railway changed the scenery of the desert no more than a balloon changes the scenery of the clouds. Once out of Cairo, we were in the ocean of sand and desolation, as much as a ship out of Plymouth is in the ocean of green water. We passed across the characteristic flinty ground of the real desert: we saw rolling hills of tawny; almost golden sand, like yellow snowhills drifted and smoothed by the winds, and as if never trodden by the foot of man. We saw troops of light gazelles bounding along with elastic step as they fled in terror from the mysterious monster that rushed snorting toward them from the horizon. We saw in great beauty more than one mirage, fully realizing all we had ever heard of its deceptive likeness to large pools or lakes of water, with shores indented by tiny bays and jutting promontories, and with a hazy brightness over them singularly picturesque. We saw strings of loaded camels, with Arabs on foot guiding them, and slowly journeying, as their predecessors had done for thousands of years, along that old route, it may be, to Palestine or to Arabia Petrea, or to strange and unknown scenes, or to verdant scenes of pasture lands and feeding ground for goats and camels, with tents pitched round springs of water—spots to which no vacation tourists has yet penetrated, and that remain as they were in the days of Job. And thus the desert was very desert, out and out, as it ought to have been, in order to meet the expectations of those more sanguine even than ourselves. On we went, thoroughly enjoying the scene, with no feeling of disappointment whatever. We could certainly picture a more ideal mode of passing through that old romantic waste, but it was impossible to picture a more perfect waste than that which we passed through.—[*Good Words*.]

—The screw steamship *China*, Captain Anderson, accomplished her last voyage from New York to Queenstown in 8 days 14 hours and 8 minutes (deducting the difference of time,) a feat quite unparalleled in the annals of screw steam navigation. The *China's* passage is several hours shorter than the fastest ever previously made by any screw steamer, and it has only been surpassed by occasional voyages of the *Persia* and *Scotia*.—[*Liverpool Mercury*.]

—Since 1860 no less than seven thousand brigands have been killed, wounded or captured in Italy.