TIME FOR WATERING PLANTS.—The best time for using the watering pot, garden engine, or hydropult, is at sunset. There are two reasons for this, one that it saves labor, and the other that it produces a better effect on the soil. If water is applied while the sun is hot, most of it evaporates. If applied at sun set, nearly the whole settles into the ground, and so less is required and a saving of labor is effected. But when water settles through a soil, the air follows it and the soil is aired as well as watered, and is left light, porous and friable, fit to be penetrated by the roots of plants. If applied in the heat of the day, the soil bakes and is put into a condition most unfit for a free circulation of air and unfavorable to permeation by the small roots. For these reasons, watering, as a general rule, should be done in the evening. But there are exceptions. When plants occupy the whole surface, so that every part is shaded, water may be applied at any time, as is most convenient. A bed of strawberries, for instance, of rank growth and especially in fruiting time, can hardly be watered too often or too much, though at other times they require little or no attention in this respect. When watering a strawberry bed in fruiting time, it is well, unless the soil has been highly enriched, to sprinkle on wood ashes, and wash them in with the water. Some people suppose that the soil for strawberries must be very rich. This is a mistake. If you make the soil as rich as a manure heap, you will be sure to get a rank growth of vines, but will fail to get fruit in proportion; whereas if you deepen the soil without enriching it excessively, and then apply the alkalies contained in wood ashes, when they are in blossom, you secure a less rampant growth of vines, but far more fruit. As regards trees that have been recently transplanted, it is seldom necessary to water them, provided the ground within 18 or 20 inches of the trunk is covered with some sort of a mulch. The mulch of itself keeps the ground moist and cool, just the conditions most favorable to the growth of trees.

KEAN'S MOURNING PROCESSION.—At one time a quartette of friends dined weekly together, of whom Edmund Kean and Elliston were two. After dinner, on one dark winter's evening, a hackney coach was called, and the four friends, each secretly carrying a small bag under his arm, entered the vehicle, which was ordered to be driven to a street off the Strand, which was not very brilliantly illuminated. When it had reached a gloomy spot where the gas lamps were widest apart, the driver was told to halt and open the door, and from the steps descended a gentleman in full mourning costume, cloak, and hatband; then another, similarly caparisoned, and another, and another; but these were not all! The flow of mourners continued, without interruption, and seemed likely to "stretch out to the crack of doom." The muffled driver, stood at the door, holding his arm to assist the strange company as they alighted, bore it for a while; but, overpowered at last with fear and horror, ran off, shouting to the watch to exorcise this demoniacal procession. This was a piece of Edmund Kean's wild fun. He had furnished his companions with their funeral gear in the bags. The cloaks, etc., were assumed as they drove along, and the opposite door of the coach was quietly opened and the steps let down before the occupants got out from the other side. To slip unperceived around the back of the coach, and pass nimbly through again and again, before the coachman, who was of the true Jarvey type, could discover the trick, was easy enough to such old stagers; and whether they had not "all melted into air, thin air," before the roused Dogberry could be dragged from his watch-box, and brought to the scene of action, must be left to the reader's imagination.

THE EARTH-WORM.—Uncouth and even offensive looking as the common earth-worm appears, there is much in its natural history and habits both instructive and useful. The worm belongs to an extensive tribe of animals, called by the celebrated French naturalist, Cuvier, the Annelidæ, from the Latin word *annulus*, a ring; the animals composing the class being formed of a series of circles, perhaps answering the purpose of the spine and bones of the higher animals. Some of the worm tribe form cells for themselves in which they live, while others simply burrow in the ground or float in water, as the earth-worm and the useful leech, without any apparent coverings. To this large class belongs that destructive animal, the wood-worm, which is so destructive to ships, and to piles of wood when in water. The unseen labors of this insidious worm are the more dangerous, that it generally leaves the outer surface of the timber untouched, while the inner portion is but a mass of dust, which the slightest accident may break. Unfortunately the wood-worm is but too common in our own seas, although it is supposed to have originally come from the tropics. The earth-worm differs from its destructive brother, by having no visible outward covering, by burrowing in the ground, and being but partially oviparous; leeches and earth-worms depositing capsules, as they are called, containing many embryo young. The worm subsists on decayed vegetable matter, such as leaves, and where these are to be had it seldom touches a living plant. In the autumn or early winter, its labors are best seen, for the earth being strewed with dead leaves from plants, it is busily engaged in dragging them into the earth, first for food, and afterwards as a manure to the soil. The worm, however, is often a source of great annoyance to those who preserve plants in the house. If care has not been taken to exclude them from the pots, they are apt in the absence of other sources of nourishment, to attack the roots or other parts of plant which may be within their reach. In such cases we have been sometimes compelled to take the plant from the pot and pressing the soil gently, force the worm from its liar. Many, however use lime water, or a solution of corrosive sublimate, which has the effect of destroying the worm. This process is sometimes necessary in gardens, where plants, whose leaves recline on the ground, are liable to be injured by the worm; but in destroying the poor animal we should not forget its usefulness. Let us look to its labors over all nature, and not to the slight injury we may receive from the act of self-preservation. Look at it in the autumn, in fields and woods, carrying the leaves that strew the ground, down through the small aperture formed by its body into its winter home, and [illegible]. The soil is fertilized, the trees and grass flourish, and what is given to the roots of the plants, or cast up as nourishment to the surface, is at once a source of nourishment and gratification to man. The worm is indeed a grand agriculturist.

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