

THE INDUSTRIES OF JAPAN

Rapidly Monopolizing the Matting Markets of the World. VIEWING THE WOI D. REFLUG 'FACTORIES' The Work, Wages and Mode of Living of Skilled and Unskilled Laborers—Interesting Facts About the Livelihood of the Nation of Asia.

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The new treaty between Japan and the United States, which is now in the hands of the senate, will probably make a big difference in our trade with the Japanese. Heretofore all our business has had to be done through a limited number of the ports of the country. It has been impossible for merchants or importers to travel through the empire, picking up their own goods and business from the various manufacturers. All business has been done through middlemen who are Japanese. By this treaty Americans can go into business anywhere in Japan. They can set up factories and employ Japanese cheap labor to make goods for America, and they can buy where they please. The new treaty will make a great change in Japan, and it will probably be the most prosperous country in the world during the next five or ten years. The settlement of the Chinese war will bring a great amount of money into the country. The biggest cities are already building factories, and foreign trade is being cultivated in every possible way. The Japanese have for some time realized that the markets of the world are open to them. They are now studying our tastes, and they are manufacturing for our markets. They are fast becoming a nation of inventors, and during the past summer I spent some weeks in looking up their new industries, especially those which are springing up with a view to American markets. One of these was the business growing up in Japanese rugs and matting. It is really wonderful what they have done within a few years of these branches of trade. The Japanese had no rugs before they began to take up the new civilization. They are now making the most beautiful rugs in the world, and also the cheapest. There is an American firm in Kobe which is shipping vast quantities of rugs to the United States, and which is introducing the manufacture into Japan. It is a curious and interesting thing to see a book ever made was produced by this firm. They had artists go to all the great museums of Europe and copy the colors and patterns of the rugs of the world. They found these patterns in a book, which they sent out in Japan and put into the hands of the workmen, and now these famous rugs are being copied in Japan. The rug was brought from India, and the new rugs are equal in color to the originals. They sell for a song in comparison with the Turkish rugs, and there is a possibility that the Japanese rug will crowd the Turkish rug. If they do so, they will crowd the eastern rug out of the market, for they are born artists, and every child in the entire race is a genius in the coloring of colors. There are villages in Japan that make nothing but these rugs. I visited one known as Sakai, near Osaka, and I was introduced to the rug makers, who were a man who owned 3,000 hands. The rug was done almost altogether by hand, and in houses which looked more like stables than anything else. The proprietor's name was Ito, and he had 200 houses in his establishment, and he took me to a number of these. Some of the children were working at rug making, and they were very busy, and there were a number of girls about 10. They receive from 7 to 8 cents in silver a day, and they work from 8 in the morning until 4 at night, having an hour at noon for lunch. They work Saturdays and Sundays, but have two holidays during each month. I talked with Mr. Ito as to the prices of the rugs, and it is wonderful how cheaply they can be made. Take a rug of the size of a wide by six feet long of the kind that is used for hearth rugs in the United States, and which costs when sold at home about \$2.25. It takes only two days to make, and make one of these rugs. The rug is to be imported. It must pay a duty on coming into Japan, and the rug, I think, pay a duty on going into America. Altogether, the cost of this rug is about 10 cents, and the Japanese can afford to make them. The Japanese are making some very curious rugs now. Their best rug will be a square of wool, and the best, which are very closely woven, cost about as much as our imitation Smyrna rugs.

NEW JAPANESE MATTING.

I talked some time with Mr. George Flood, the head of the matting industry, which is rapidly sprucing up in Japan, and which is now driving the Chinese matting out of our markets. He says that it is only two years since the Japanese began to export this article, and that they are now making 250,000 rolls a year. The matting is made in the province of Shinshu, where the emperor has been holding his court during the war with China. It has been used for years by the Japanese as a covering for their floors, and they use only in white patterns, and the mats were put together in the form of cushions about three feet wide and six feet long, and the houses were covered with these mats. The mats just fitted into each room, and the size of a room in Japan is known by the number of mats it takes to cover it. The matting industry in Japan, and the industry has grown up just for the export trade. These mats are now woven in every part of the country, and they are thinner than the Chinese matting and are much more beautiful in their artistic finish. Some of the mats which were woven of threads of gold, and others are of a Panama hat. The Japanese originate new patterns every year. They don't like to work after the styles. Different workmen exchange ideas, and they produce new things every year. This matting is made out of reeds which grow without knots. It is made like rice, and it needs no seed of value. It has a market value, and is sold by the pound. It needs a warm cloth, and it is woven very much like cloth, and it is dyed in various colors, and it is finished it is clipped with a pair of scissors, and after that it is washed and pressed, and it is dressed. The work is so carefully done that two men with an assistant can make only from two to three rolls per month, and the rolls are worth from \$5 to \$10 in silver. Japan when they are ready for shipment. This is how cheap the wages are.

CHINA VS. JAPAN.

I asked Mr. Flood as to what was to be the future of this matting industry. He replied: "I believe it will eventually drive the Chinese matting out of our markets. It is clean and healthy. The cheapest varieties can be put into America for about 7 cents a yard, though the more expensive varieties, of course, vary much dearer. As I said before, it was almost an unknown industry five years ago, but it has now thousands of men and women, and there are whole counties which practically live off it." "Yes, it is," was the reply, "and it will continue to increase. The Japanese are conquering the world, and they are going to make all sorts of cheap goods. They make as fine paper as you can find in America, and their silk trade is good. There are 130,000 silk looms in Kiota, and they now export all sorts of goods. It would surprise you to know the number of curios that are sent away from here. There is one firm in New York which imports 400,000 worth every year, and you can find them for sale in all the stores in America. I have never seen anything like these Japanese. They are wonderful in the way they work. The wife family works, and the more the children the bigger the income. Japan is, in fact, about the most prosperous country in the world today. There are practically no beggars, and the people are happy and well-to-do. The general idea of Japan is that it is made up of

fact, pretty girls and curio shops. This is a great mistake. These are but the incidents of the life of Japan. This is a big, busy, energetic nation and it is business from the word go. The chief industries of the country are developing, and the people are working hard to supply the goods which the people need, and the merchants are like the antiquity dealers of other countries, and do not constitute a big business part of the nation."

SOMETHING ABOUT JAPANESE SILKS.

There are quite a number of Americans in Japan who are buying and selling. Several large factories have lately been erected. One which was built a year or so ago, and which is operated largely by women and girls, who receive from 10 to 20 cents per day as wages. The best of the male operators are paid about 50 cents per day, and these people are working with modern machinery. Japan is now importing quite a large number of cocoons, and she raises them by the ton every year. I was very much interested in the process. It is different from that used in China. The eggs of the silkworm are placed on pieces of paper and hung up in a warm room about five feet above the floor. As soon as they are hatched they are fed with bran made from millet, and after a short time they are fed with mulberry leaves, which are cut up into little bits, and the pieces are increased in size as the worms grow. They are fed eight times every twenty-four hours at first, and as they get older their meals are cut down to four. It takes 2,000 pounds of mulberry leaves to feed the number of silkworms which produce one sheet of eggs, which varies from 45,000 to 60,000 in number, and the frames upon which they are laid have to be changed every day. The cocoons are kept in warm rooms, and they eat their biggest meals at night. When they are full grown they begin to make their cocoons, and the butterflies are destroyed in the country. The cocoons are sorted so as to make the silk of the best quality. The cocoons are boiled before they are reeled, and there is a vast deal of work in making a single thread of silk. As to the reeling of silk, the greater part of it is still done by hand and by the rudest sort of machinery. The motive power for turning the reels of some of the factories consists of men who walk around in a circle, like a man in a tannery, pushing the reels, which are a series of eggs, run the works in the rooms below. These men receive about 10 cents a day for their work, and the silk reeders, who are skilled laborers, receive about 15 cents a day. There are two sorts of looms on which the silk is woven, and these looms are of their own people, and you find large silk stores in all of the cities, and there is hardly a girl in Japan who has not a silk dress. The women of the large cities are proud in their clothes. This is a mistake. The ladies of Japan seldom appear on the street except in the most quiet colors, and black. One of these Osaka silk stores has dozens of clerks, who squat down on the floor when they sell you the goods. There are also a number of shops which sell the silk on the floor and figures all his calculations on a box of wooden buttons strung upon wires. He moves these up and down, and he tells you the price of the silk, and he seldom makes a mistake.

NEW JAPANESE INDUSTRIES.

A number of new industries are making their way into Japan, and a great deal of machinery is being shipped to America. It looks much like Lincrusta Walton, and some of it has the appearance of leather. I believe that the Japanese letter paper is being made in Japan, and it is wonderfully strong. Indeed, some of the sheets made at the government paper mill near Tokio, are so tough that a man can stand on them with his feet and his hands on them, and they will hold the corners. There is a big modern paper mill now in Japan, and the paper is much finer than anything we have. It is as soft as cloth, and they have a way of making the paper so that it has all the qualities of cloth, and it is no more than one's touch, and it is used for handkerchiefs. Japan is now publishing some of the most beautiful books of the world, and there is a great deal of machinery being shipped to America, and it is wonderful how cheaply they can be made. Take a rug of the size of a wide by six feet long of the kind that is used for hearth rugs in the United States, and which costs when sold at home about \$2.25. It takes only two days to make, and make one of these rugs. The rug is to be imported. It must pay a duty on coming into Japan, and the rug, I think, pay a duty on going into America. Altogether, the cost of this rug is about 10 cents, and the Japanese can afford to make them. The Japanese are making some very curious rugs now. Their best rug will be a square of wool, and the best, which are very closely woven, cost about as much as our imitation Smyrna rugs.

SOME JAPANESE CANDIES.

It is a wonder to me that the Japanese candy is not imported into the United States. I believe that some enterprising man, like the fellow who got up the digestive granules, could make a fortune by shipping a Japanese candy, which is known as midzuno, into the United States. This is a candy made of about the same nature. It is said to be excellent for dyspepsia and some people take it after their meals. It is made of almonds, and it is very sweet, and it is like thick golden molasses, and is much better to the taste. It could be used for cakes and the babies could eat it without danger. The candy is made in the form of a ball, and it is believed that the same sweet could be made here from Indian corn. Other candies are made of beans, and all of these candies are supported by the government. States and sold at good prices. There is hardly anything we use that the Japanese could not make cheaper than we do, and the Japanese are now building watch factories. The wages are so remarkably low and their workmen can live like lords on the money they receive.

SOME JAPANESE ECONOMIES.

The people of the far east have nothing like our wants. A workman can furnish his house there for less than \$10 and they save in every possible way. It is a very poor American laborer indeed who has \$50 worth of furniture in his house. He has tables that cost all the way from \$2 to \$10 apiece. His chairs cost him from 50 cents upward. His carpets are made of straw, and his cooking stove costs a big hole into a month's wages. The Japanese use only matting, and he carpets his house of two or three mats. He has a bed of straw, and he has a stove cost him, all told, not more than \$1.50, and I have seen it estimated a couple can go to housekeeping on \$5.50. Chopticks are by no means expensive. They are made of wood, and his pillows are of wood, costing about a couple of cents apiece. He has no bed, and he sleeps on the floor, and so you can see that he has a very simple life. He has no sewing on rocking chairs and lounge. Take all the beds and cooking stoves in America, and you will find that they cost more than the Japanese. Suppose our laborers used straw sandals and well-to-do men trotted about on wooden clogs. Suppose our stockings were thrown away, and we used four pairs that cost as high as the ankles. Suppose for the next ten years the 65,000,000 people of the United States would not need to wear underclothes, and all sorts of other expensive matters, we should confine ourselves to rice, fish, vegetables and tea. You can see what an immense saving it would be. I do not advocate these changes, but they enter as factors in the competition which is bound to ensue with these people of the East. It is probable that the Japanese machinery, they will begin to manufacture for the world.

THE LABORER'S DAILY LIFE.

I asked some questions in western Japan as to how the working people live. I was told that the nearly every man has his own cottage or house, and that the rent is sometimes as low as 40 cents a month, and the house sometimes consists of only one room. Still, it is wonderful how happy the people are, and how they laugh at their work. The average workman rises at 6, and has his breakfast, consisting of rice and a bowl of soup. He then goes to work, and he is home at 12, and he has his dinner. A week he has a hot bath, and he has a hot bath on top of it to warm it, and eat it with chopsticks. At 8 he begins work, and he has a lunch of rice, furnished by his employer. At 12 he has his dinner. This consists of plenty of rice, a little dried fish and clams, if they are in season. He has a hot bath, and he has a hot bath on top of it to warm it, and eat it with chopsticks. At 8 he begins work, and he has a lunch of rice, furnished by his employer. At 12 he has his dinner. This consists of plenty of rice, a little dried fish and clams, if they are in season. He has a hot bath, and he has a hot bath on top of it to warm it, and eat it with chopsticks.

HOLLY FIR AND MISTLETOE

Custom of Decorating That Dates Back to Antiquity. AND THERE'S REVERENCE PAID THE GREEN Manner in Which This Decorating Material is Secured by the Dealers—A Pretty Legend from the Dim Past Concerning the Mistletoe Holly.

As the passing of December days brings the world nearer to the holiday season, the eye of the pedestrian is attracted by the bright colors with which the kind decorates its habitations in honor of the sacred anniversary. They are conspicuous everywhere. Bushes of holly, radiant with the fruit of red berries, nestle in the shop windows and invite the attention of holiday purchasers. Huge bolts of evergreen wreathings are displayed on the sidewalks and the commission houses are permeated with the crisp and grateful odor of the Christmas trees that are stacked in every vacant corner.

SOMETHING ABOUT WAGES.

I am told that wages have been increasing since the modern civilization has come into Japan, but they are still very low, and the reduction in the price of goods is not so great as in half. The figures which follow are in American money they would be just half of what is here given. Common laborers receive from 10 to 20 cents a day, and they who pull carts and practically take the place of our city horses, get from 10 to 15 cents. In the cities the prices are higher than these, but farm laborers receive less than 10 cents a day. Carpenters get from 40 to 50 cents a day, and paper hangers get from 40 cents upward. Blacksmiths are paid from 23 to 38 cents, and painters about the same. I saw many boys working for about 10 cents a day, and I was told that the clerks in the stores were getting a month's wages in a week. I saw many boys working for about 10 cents a day, and I was told that the clerks in the stores were getting a month's wages in a week. I saw many boys working for about 10 cents a day, and I was told that the clerks in the stores were getting a month's wages in a week.

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SHERIDAN.

More Kind and Flattering Words from Senator Hamlin. Senator Hamlin in an interview in the "Rock Springs Miner" has this to say of Sheridan: "Of Sheridan and its people I cannot say enough, and while a stranger, had he the heart to do so after the splendid reception he is here met with, I would take issue with some of its people in their prediction that it will be a city of 100,000 souls inside of sixty days, still no one can go there and look over their natural resources and advantages without being struck with the extent into the confidences which her citizens entertain in the future of their city. That Sheridan is destined to be the metropolis of the West, Wyoming, the largest cities of the state, goes without saying. It is located in one of the finest agricultural portions of Wyoming. This section is bountifully supplied with numerous streams well adapted to irrigation both on a large and small scale, and its people are not slow in utilizing them, as is shown by the fact that Sheridan county already has about a quarter of a million of acres of land under ditch. Drouth has no terrors to the Sheridan county farmer, and the water of the Big Horn gives him an unlimited market for his surplus product, especially since agriculture has proven a failure in Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma. In addition to the water, which is being already opened, the largest being the Sheridan Fuel company, which I believe is the largest in the world, and the plant is already about fifty cars per day, and finds a ready market. There are also promising good properties near Sheridan, and while they are not yet largely utilized, they are in the hands of the projectors they will constitute a great factor in building up the town.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

Rhea is rehearsing a comedy by Victorien Sardou called "The Parisians" and is to produce it in three weeks. M. B. Curtis has given notice to the members of the Sam Curtis company that their tour will close immediately. Ben Teal has been engaged by Jacob Litt to stage a new melodrama which is to be produced in Philadelphia in February. Julian Edwards, the composer of "The Magic Kites," also the musical director, is at work upon a new opera, the book of which is by Aubrey Doucaine. Mr. Beecher, Tree and the full stock company of the Haymarket theater, London, will sail for this country early in January. He will open his American tour in New York. Miss Nebraska, a young singer of Scandinavian descent, who recently sang in St. Paul, Minn., is credited with having made an operatic hit recently in Dresden.

AN EARLY LEGEND.

No one can tell when holly was first used for Christmas decorating, though it was certainly at or soon after the Christian era. Indeed, many have long believed, for some of the earliest records of the use of holly are in the Bible. The story of the legend, or fairy tale, runs in this way: A youthful hunter lost himself in a forest, and his supplies running out he was in danger of starvation. He was about to give up when he saw a little old woman, who he thought was a witch, and he went to her for help. She gave him a little of her food, and he ate it, and he felt better. She then told him that he was a prince, and that he had been bewitched by a witch. She then gave him a magic wand, and he used it to break the spell. He then married the old woman, and they lived happily ever after.

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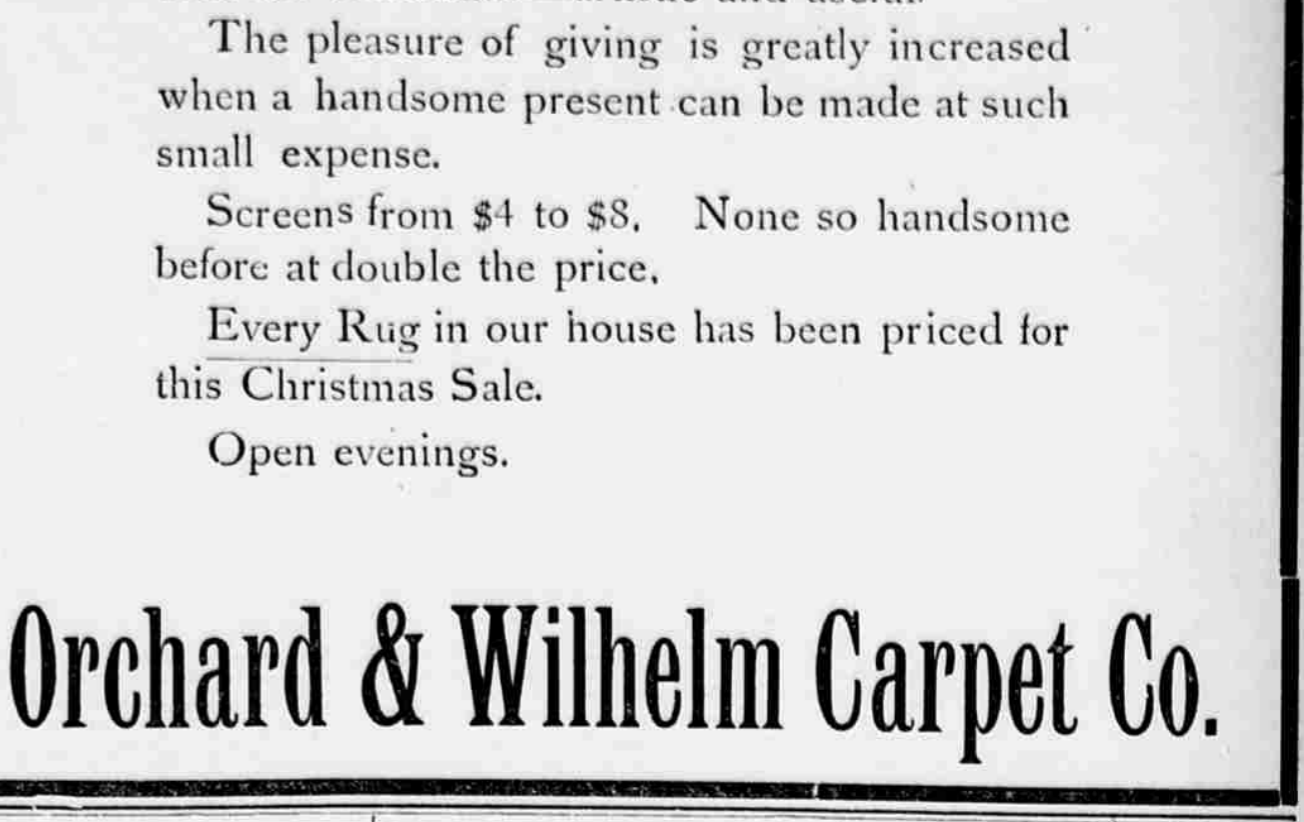
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THE BEST OF JAPAN.

Rugs and Screens direct from Kobe just in time for Christmas—artistic and useful. The pleasure of giving is greatly increased when a handsome present can be made at such small expense. Screens from \$4 to \$8. None so handsome before at double the price. Every Rug in our house has been priced for this Christmas Sale. Open evenings.



NAGS ON THE LITTLE PAPPLO

A Brief Description of One of Nebraska's Model Trotting Horse Industries.

A CANCE FOR THE STALLION KINGDOM

Joe Patchen Skeeladies West—The King of Pacers and Queen of Trotters—Curious Comparisons with the Old Times.

A trip to the stock farm of Clinton H. Briggs is all that is necessary to convince the most skeptical that the trotting horse industry in Nebraska is an enterprise of no inconsiderable moment and magnitude. This farm is located just seven miles west of Dodge, and is accessible by either the Dodge or the Lincoln. It is a beautiful place, lying between the two with the Little Papplo skirting its western border. It is what is known as the old McArdie place, and embraces 200 acres of as lovely pasture land as is outdoors. Mr. Briggs has expended both time and money unspareingly on the place, and today can truthfully boast of as complete and modern stock farm as can be found in the country. It is as cleanly and pleasing to the eye as a newly swept floor, and with its mile track, spacious buildings and broad pasture lands, is a most attractive point from either highway.

The training stable is a model. Fashioned after the most modern improvements of the Kentucky and California stables, it cannot fail to catch the eye of any passing horseman, but in addition to this, it combines in its architectural and structural details many original ideas of its live and enterprising owner. It stands on the western slope of a slight acclivity, and commands a bird's-eye view of the whole farm, including the race track and hazel bordered meandering of the river. It is a substantial frame building 100x38 feet in dimensions, and is supplied with every convenience that could be suggested or desired, with a spacious exercise yard in the center where the horses can be exercised on a windy or inclement day without exposure. There are sixty-two stalls, thirty-two inside the main structure, and the rest outside, and each stall has been built with an eye to the comfort of the occupants, with sealed walls, and an abundance of room and ventilation. In the building proper, a well appointed office, cart and carriage sheds, grain room, with its full complement of bins, harness room, and in fact every detail of the great industry into which Mr. Briggs has poured his money and gallant enthusiasm, and stock or horse men contemplating improvements on their own premises would save themselves a long and weary journey to the place a visit. There is a voluminous natural spring bubbling from the hillside just outside the pure water of the spring, and the buildings are substantial, and the board fencing which surrounds the whole place has well to do to represent the industry of the autumn season.

At present Mr. Briggs has something like 100 head of horses, trotters and pacers, stallions and brood mares, and a fine team of harness horses, all combining in making a handsome and as valuable a group as can be named in any of the western countries. They are all under the direct charge of Clarence Herberman, tried and true in the service, and corps of assistants, and the person who imagines that the caring for a lot of valuable horses is a simple matter, will find it a most interesting and profitable study. At that time two had records better than 2:17, two better than 2:18, two better than 2:19, and a total of nine that had beaten 2:20. Then the record was for a trotter at 2:16.75. Up to 1884, ten years ago, two horses had beaten 2:10. The trotter was the great Maud S., and her record was 2:09.4, while the pacer had Johnnie to represent her, and she had a record of 2:06.4. At that time the young champions at the trot and those of today compared as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Yearlings, Two-year-olds, Three-year-olds, Four-year-olds, Five-year-olds. Lists names and records of horses.

The advance did not quite stop there, for in 1856 there had been twenty-nine heats trotted in 2:30 or better, and in the eight years following 231 heats were trotted in 2:30 or better. Up to the close of 1874, 318 horses had beaten 2:30. At that time two had records better than 2:17, two better than 2:18, two better than 2:19, and a total of nine that had beaten 2:20. Then the record was for a trotter at 2:16.75. Up to 1884, ten years ago, two horses had beaten 2:10. The trotter was the great Maud S., and her record was 2:09.4, while the pacer had Johnnie to represent her, and she had a record of 2:06.4. At that time the young champions at the trot and those of today compared as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Yearlings, Two-year-olds, Three-year-olds, Four-year-olds, Five-year-olds. Lists names and records of horses.

What a pity. We had passed to the quiver of faint moonbeams on the river, and we had heard something calling. And a heavy dew is falling. It is no doubt very chilly. For her, I was only joking. It is no doubt very chilly. For her, I was only joking. It is no doubt very chilly. For her, I was only joking.

So I stooped to take possession of the coveted concession. But she draws back with discreetness. Saying, with formenting sweetness: "I guess not." Her whole manner is provoking. "She looks positively pretty. As she answers: "What a pity! So was I."

Oregon Kidney Tea cures all kidney troubles. Trial size, 25 cents. All druggists. The intelligent corner's Jew in New Orleans finds that Andy Bowen came to his death by violently colliding with an unsteady bull. The future safety of the managing art demands that the flora put on gloves before attacking a professional.

Mr. J. K. Fowler, secretary and treasurer of the Corinne Mill, Canal and Stock company, of Corinne, Utah, in speaking of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, says: "I consider it the best in the market. I have used many kinds, but find Chamberlain's most prompt and effectual in giving relief, and now keep a supply in my home." When troubled with a cold or cough give this remedy a trial, and we assure you that you will be more than pleased with the result.

IT COMES RATHER HIGH. Mistletoe is very much more costly than