VIEWING THE WOLD REUL RUG FACTORIES

The Work, Wages and Mode of Living of Skilled and Unskilled Laborers-Interesting Facts About the Live-Hest Nation of Asia.

(Copyrighted, 1891, by Frank G. Carpenter.) 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 out their own goods and buying direct from the 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 in 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 in Kobe which is shipping vast quantitles of rugs to the United States, and which is introducing the manufacture into Japan in a curious way. Perhaps the most exthis firm. They had artists go to all the great museums of Europe and copy the colors and patterns of the finest rugs in the world. They bound these patterns into 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 jute. The jute was brought from India, and the new rugs are equal in colors to the originals. They sell for a song in comparison with the Turkish rugs, and there is a possibility that the Japanese will take up the making of woolen rugs. If they do so, they will crowd the eastern rugs out of the market, for they are born artists, and every child in the em pire is a genius as to the manipulation of colors. There are villages in Japan that make nothing but these rugs. I visited one known as Sakai, near Osaka, and I was in-troduced to the biggest of the manufacturers, a man who employed 3,000 hands. The work was done almost altogether, by hand, and in houses which looked more like stables than anything else. The proprietor's name was Mitani, and he was a very bright Japanese indeed. He had 200 houses in his establishment, and he took me to a number of these. Some of the children who were working

at rug making were under 6 years of age

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 6 at night, having an hour at noon for

lunch. They work Sundays and week days

but have 'wo holidays during each month

I talked with Mr. Mitani as to the prices of

the rugs, and it is wonderful how cheaply

they can be made. Take a rug three feet

used for hearth rugs in the United States, and which costs when sold at home about

\$2.25. It takes a Japanese four days to make one of these rugs. The jute has to be

imported. It must pay a duty on coming

on going into America. Altogether out of

this \$2.25 there come about sixteen profits,

and the wages are so low that the Japanes

can afford to make them. The Japanese are

making some very curious rugs now. Their

cotton rugs are good and cheap, though 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 American firm, about the matting industry which has recently sprung up in Japan, and which is now driving the Chinese matting out of our markets. He says that it is only four or five years now since the Japanese began to export this ar ticle, and that we already take 250,000 rolls a year. The matting comes from near Hiroshima, 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, but it was made 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 three feet wide and six feet long, and the houses were so built that a number of these 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. Very little of the matting such as is sent to America is used in Japan, and the industry has grown up just for the export trade. These mats are now woven in colors, and they are, if anything, thinner than the Chinese matting and are much more beautiful in their artistic finish. Some look as though they were finish. Some look as though they were woven of threads of gold, and others are as fine as a Panama hat. The Japanese originate new patterns every year. They don't like to work after the old styles. Different workmen exchange ideas, and they produce new things every year. This matting is made out of a reed which grows without knots. It is much like rice, but it produces no seed of value. It has a market value, and is sold by the pound. It needs a warm climate. It is harvested like wheat, and is well dried and bleached before it is sold. well dried and bleached before it is sold. The mats are dyed with antiine colors, and these are imported. It is woven very much like cloth, and all of the pieces have to be put in by hand. After it is finished it is clipped with a pair of scissors, and after leaving the machine it has to be again dressed. The work is so carefully done that two men with an assistant from two trees. The Japanese uses only matter ting and he carpets his house of two or three rooms for as many dollars. His pots, pans and stoves cost him, all told, not more than \$1.50, and I have seen it estimated a couple can go to housekeeping on \$5.50. Chopsticks are by no means so expensive as knives and forks, and his pillows are of wood, costing about a couple of cents aplece. He has been men with an assistant dollars. 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 \$3 to \$10 in silver in Japan when they are ready for shipment. Suppose our laborers were straw sandal This is from \$1 to \$5 in gold, and thus you and well-to-do men trotted about on worder see how cheap the wages must be.

and well-to-do then trotted about on wo-den clogs. Suppose our stockings were thrown away and we used foot mittens that only come 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 underplied: "I believe it will eventually drive the Chinese matting out of the market. It is much prettier than the Chinese matting. It is clean and healthy. The cheapest varieties can be put into America for about 7 cents a meats, we should confine curselves to rice, fish, vegetables and tea. oYu can see what yard, though the more expensive kinds are, an immense saving there would be. Remen of course, very much dearer. As I said be-fore, it was almost an unknown industry five years ago, but it now employs thousands of men and women, and there are whole coun-ties which practically live off it." ber, I do not advocate these changes, but they enter as factors in the competition which is bound to ensue with these people of

"Japan's trade with America seems to be increasing," sa'd I.

"Yes, it is," was the reply, "and it will continue to increase. The Japanese are studying the world, and they are going to make all sorts of cheap goods. They make as fine paper as you can find in America. continue to increase. The Japanese are studying 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 120,006 silk looms in Kiota, and they now compete with France in all kinds of silk. 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 \$150,000 worth every year, and you find them for sale in all the stores in America. I have never seen anything like these Japanese. They are wonders in the way of industry. The whole 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 eral idea of Japan is that it is made up of early. He has two suits of clothes, one for

THE INDUSTRIES OF JAPAN

fans, pretty girls and curlo shops. This is a great mistake. These are but the incidents of the life of Japan. This is a big business nation and it is business from the word go. The chief industries of the country are devoted to supplying the goods which the people need for themselves, and the curlo merchants are like the antiquity dealers of the countries, and do not constitute a big. other countries, and do not constitute a big business part of the nation." SOMETHING ABOUT JAPANESE SILKS.

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 sprinkled with bran made from mil-let, 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.

get older their meals are cut uswall takes 2,000 pounds of mulberry leaves to

feed the number of slikworms batched from

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. They must be kept in warm rooms, and

they are full grown they begin to make their cocoons, and the butterflies are de-

stroyed in the cocoons, from which the silk

is to be made. The caterpillars and butter-flies are often killed by steaming the cocoons

and the cocoons are sorted so as to make the silk of an even fineness and color. The cocoons are boiled before they are reeled, and

walk around in a circle, like a horse in a

tannery, pushing two poles, which, by a series of cogs, run the works in the rooms

below. These men receive about 10 cents a

day for their work, and the silk reelers, who

are skilled laborers, get about 15 cents a day. There are two sorts of looms on which the silk is woven, and these looms are of the

rudest construction. The women do the most of the weaving, and silk crape is made by

twisting two threads in opposite directions

thus producing the crinky appearance of the

The most of the silk used in Japan is for

floor when they sell you the goods. There

on a box of wooden buttons strung upon wires. He moves these up and down, and

can tell you the price in a moment, and he

NEW JAPANESE INDUSTRIES.

A number of new industries are making their way into Japan, and a great deal of

Japanese wallpaper is now 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 would sell well in the United States. I

shines like silk, and it is wonderfully strong

ernment paper mill, near Tokio, are so tough

that a man can stand in the center of a sheet and be lifted up by others who have hold of the corners. There is a big modern paper mill now in

Kobe, Japan, and the wrapping paper of the

country 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 is by no means offensive

to one's touch when used as handkerchiefs

Japan is now publishing some of the most beautiful books of the world, and there is

an establishment in Tokio which will com-

plates prepared in Japan and printed there or here. I don't know as to the copyright

law in this respect, but you can get the

finest of half-tone work, such as is used in our best magazine illustrations, for 15 cents

illustrations cost from 40 to 50 cents per

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 these digesting chew-

ing gums, could make a fortune by shipping a Japanese swest, which is known as midzuame, into the United States. This is a delicious candy, much more palatable than gumdrops and of about the same nature.

It is said to be excellent for dyspepsia and some people take it after their meals. It is

made also in the form of a sirup and it looks

like a thick golden molasses, and is much better to the taste. It could be used for

cakes and the babies could eat it withou

danger. It is made from rice and wheat and it is believed that the same sweet could

be made here from Indian corn. Othe candies are made of beans, and all of these

sweets could be imported to the United States and sold at good prices. There is hardly anything we use that the Japanese could not make cheaper than we do and there are very few things which they could not make as well. They are now building total fortunated the state of the st

watch factories. The wages are so remark-ably low and their workingmen can live like lords on what our laborers would starve on.

SOME JAPANESE ECONOMIES.

The people of the far east have nothing

save in every possible way. It is a very poor American laborer indeed who has not \$50 worth of furniture in his htuse. He has tables that cost all the way from \$2 to

\$10 apiece. His chairs cost him from 50 cents upward. His carpets are expensive and

his cooking stove cats a big hole into a month's wages. The Japanese uses only mat-ting and he carpets his house of two or three

clothing, and suppose, instead of living of beefsteak and all sorts of other expensive

Asia in the future, when, by modern ma-chinery, they will begin to manufacture for

THE LABORER'S DAILY LIFE.

I asked some questions in western Japa

JAPANESE CANDIES

per square inch in American money.

square inch in this country.

seldom makes a mistake.

The ladies of Japan seldom appear

dress.

take.

they eat their biggest meals at night.

omit his dinner, he will seldom omit his You find public baths is all the cities, and these are full every evening. Both men and women bathe together in the country There are quite a number of Americans Japan who are now engaged in buying districts, and a whole family goes to the bath house, and babies and all steam themsilks and shipping them to the United States. Several large factories have lately been erected. One which was built a year or so ago cost \$509,000, and it 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 selves until their pores are clean. Within the last few years there has been a separation of the sexes in the big city bath houses but it has only been by running a fence about three feet high through the pools, and best of the mule operators are paid about 50 the men bathe on one side, while the women cents per day, and these people are working with modern machinery. Japan is now imwash themselves on the other. porting quite a large number of cocoons, and she raises them by the ton every year. I was 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 silver just about cuts them in half. The figures which follow are in Japanese currency, and if they were American money they would be just half of what is here given. Common laborers re-ceive from 10 to 20 cents a day, and the men who pull carts and practically take the place of our dray horses, get from 10 to 15 cents. In the cities the prices are higher than these, but farm laborers often receive less than 15 cents a day. Carpenters get from 40 to 50 cents. Head cartmen receive from 25 to 40 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 who got \$15 a month thought they were doing exceedingly well. Many clerks work for their beard and their clothes, with the understanding that after an apprenticeship of about ten years the merchant will give them a small stock of goods and allow them to start out for themselves. 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 horse in a

Frank G. Carpenter 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 bound to receive might take issue with some of its people in their pre-diction 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 entering to the full its 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 extent into the confidences which her citizens entertain in the future of their city. That Sheridan is destined to be the metropolis of dress. We have an idea that the people are loud in their clothes. This is a misnorthern Wyoming and one of the largest cities of the state, goes without saying. It is located in one of the finest agricultural poron the street except in the most quiet colors, and the Japanese gentlemen wear soft grays and black. One of these Osaka silk stores tions of Wyoming. This section is bounti fully supplied with numerous streams well has dozens of clerks, who squat down on the 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 are no counters. The blokkeeper sits flat on the floor and figures all his calculations Sheridan county already has about a quar-ter of a million of acres of land under ditch. Drouth has no terrors to the Sheridan county farmer, and the completion of the Burlington gives him an unlimited market for his surplus product, especially since agriculture has proven a fallure in Kansas, Nebraska and Dakota. In addition to this, Sheridan is surrounded by an ample supply of good coal, which is being already opened, the largest being the Sheridan Fuel company, which I had the pleasure of visiting. Its output is already about fifty cars per day, and finds a ready market. There are also promising gold properties near Sheridan, and while they are as yet largely undeveloped, if they fulfill the expectations of their projectors they will constitute a great factor in building up the

"Above all, Sheridan has the right kind of men to make a city. They are energetic and aggressive. They have unlimited confi-dence in the future of their town, and are willing to stake everything they have on their judgment in this particular. They have already succeeded in interesting outside capital to a greater extent, I believe, than any other town in the state. Two large flouring mills, a planing mill, and a fine electric light plant, a beet sugar factory and a woolen mill are already being agitated

pare in size with those of our big publishers.

The prices for printing and engraving are wonderfully cheap, and I believe that our "The completion of the Burlington division point on that line. I have little doubt that this line will build west from Sheridan through the Big Horn basin in the near future, which will open a splendid ter-ritory and make it tributary to Sheridan. In addition to this, it is generally conceded that the general shops of the Burlington for this portion of its system will be located here. If these elements will not make a city what will? The reception which I received at the hands of the Sheridan people beggars de-

Rhea is rehearsing a comedy by Victorier Sardou called "The Parisians" and is to pro luce it in three weeks.

M. B. Curtis has given notice to the mem-bers of his Sam'l O'Posen company that his 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 Eduards, the composer of "Madeleine, or the Magic Kiss," also the musical director, is at work upon a new opera, the book of which is by Aubrey Boucicault.

Mr. Beerbohm 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 Scan-dinavian descent, whose parents now reside in St. Paul, Minn., is credited with having made an operatic hit recently in Dresden Canary and Lederer are to produce "The Twentieth Century Girl" at the New York Bijou theater January 14, when the name of the house will be changed to the Gaiety

Father T. Conway, who was recently pasto of the Roman Catholic church in Dickson City, Pa., has become an actor and is a member of a company that is soon to appear in Dickson City.

Jacob Litt, proprietor of "In Old Kentucky," paid \$150,000 for a theater in Minne-apolis the other day. The profits on "In Old Kentucky" this season will, it is said, run close to \$100,000.

The fiftieth celebration of Hans Balatka's musical career will be celebrated at the Chicago auditorium early in March. The services of 1,000 singers will be enlisted and are by no means so expensive as knives and forks, 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 see that he saves every way. Think of the saving on recking chairs and lounges! Take all the beds and cooking stoves in America. What an immense amount they must cost! Suppose our laborers wore straw sandals and well-to-do men trotted about on worden. volunteered. Paganini would never let any one hear

him tune his violin and it is believed that many of the extremely peculiar effects he produced were obtained by his tuning the violin half a tone lower or higher than the ordinary pitch. Miss Isabel Irving, who is now the lead-ing lady in Daniel Frohman's Lyceum Theater company, has already justified her selection as Miss Cayvan's successor by her

admirable and sympathetic performance in Sardou's "A Woman's Silence," a p'ay, by the way, that did not make a success at the Ebenezer Prout, B. A., who has been appointed to the chair of music of the University of Dublin, is in his 60th year. He was graduated at the University of London in 1854 and is the author of works on the "Theory of Music," "Instrumentation." "Counterpoint, "Musical Form," and "Harmony." He succeeds Sir A. P. Stewart.

Joseph Herbert of Chicago, now the clever

"Harmony." He succeeds Sir A. P. Stewart.
Joseph Herbert of Chicago, now the clever
comedian in "Rob Roy," the latest operatic
success of Smith and De Koven, has written
a libratio entitled "The Birth of Venus."
Edward Jacobowski, composer of "Ermine."
will furnish the music. The opera will be
produced February 1 in Buffalo, N. Y. It is understood the cast will embrace Miss Adele Ritchie, Miss Cora Tanner and the author will appear in the leading role.

A wreath bearing the inscription "The National Conservatory of Music of America's Tribute to Palestrina, Antonin Dvorak, Director," has been forwarded to the Royai Philharmonic Roman academy, to be laid upon the bust of the great polyphonic writer upon the occasion of the services in commemoration of the 300th anniversary of his death, which will be held in Rome some time during the present month.

HOLLY FIR AND MISTLETOE

Custom of Decorating That Dates Back to Antiquity.

other men and women of his acquaintance for about eight-tenths of a cent. There are 800 public baths in Tokic alone, in which 300,000 people bathe daily, at the cost of 1 cent a head, and though the workman may

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 Much-Prized 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 mankind decorates its habitations in honor of the most sacred anniver-They are conspicuous everywhere, Bunches of holly, radiant with the fruit of red berries, nestle in the shop windows and invite the attention of holiday purchasers. Huge belts 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.

The custom of Christmas decoration came to America in the Mayflower, and so universal is its observance that people regard it as a matter of course. Just how and when it originated is not in evidence, but it does not require a close observer to conclude that there is something in the human heart which welcomes the advent of the holly and evergreen as naturally as it offers homage to its Cre-

One night not many days ago the rain was falling in cold, blinding sheets, as the doors of the shops and the stores were opened for the crowds of employes whose day of toil was ended. They wrapped themselves in overcoats and mackintoshes and hastened across the dripping pavements to escape the deluge which pierced their coverings. At the corner of Thirteenth and Harney streets a couple of little girls were picking their way across the gutter, through which the water rushed with its burden of offal and refuse of the street. No covering protected them from the pelting drops which fell unrestrained on their shabby little gowns and soaked into their wind-tossed tangles of scrubby hair. One of them carried a basket which contained two or three stunted apples and other bits of fruit, which had evidently been rescued from the gutter.

As they passed the corner one of them espled a tiny spray of green that was being carried down the terrent in the street. Regardless of the feet that were protected by a pair of dilapidated shoes, she waded through the incipient deluge and snatched the prize. It was only a stubby branch of evergreen that some shopkeeper had tossed away. It was soaked with water and foul with the accumulations of the gutter. But to the friendless waif it was a gift from Providence. She cleansed it carefully in the cleanest pool that the pavement afforded, then wiped it dry on the inside of her ragged shawl. Regardless of the drenching rain, the bables stopped un-til the sprig of evergreen was restored to its natural guise and then it was tucked away in the basket and carried; off in triumph. It might be that the eagerness with which the wisp of green was prized by the forlorn and ragged waifs was but the reflection of the human instinct which causes the luxurious palace, as well as the cottage of the humble laborer, to be arrayed in the colors of the springtime as the anniversary of the Saviour's THE SUPPLY AND DEMAND.

However that may be, during the past two weeks carloads of material have been shipped into Omaha, to be used in arraying the busi-ness places, churches and residences with the colors of the season. As a rule the dealers have not ordered as extensively as in previous years. The Thanksgiving trade was a disappointment from start to finish, and this operated to prevent the dealers from laying in a very liberal stock of Christmas decora-

As far as can be learned, five carloads of Christmas trees have been shipped to local dealers, and it is expected that these will be more than sufficient to satisfy the demand. As a rule, an ordinary car will carry upwards of 500 trees, but where the trees are very The demand for trees has perceptibly decreased during recent years, and there is but little call for anything but the smallest shrubs, which are used purely for decorative cents up, according to size.

Most of the supply is obtained from the northern counties of Wisconsin, where the growth of fir and spruce is not so brittle as in localities further south. This product stands shipping and handling well, and most of it is shipped to Chicago, and from there it is dealt out to other cities.

Prominent among the materials used in the holiday decorations are the sprays of holiy which are now in stock at all of the green houses, as well as at the commission houses and some of the large dry goods establishments. It is claimed that the best holly comes from Tennessee, but it is also found in Maryland, Delaware and in Wisconsin. That which is on sale in Omaha is bought direct from Chicago dealers, and most of it is of the southern variety.

The holly this year is unusually handsome There are more berries than usual and the leaves are very thick, glossy, and spinulous Not all holy is equally supplied with these spines on the leaves, but the long spines make it much more attractive. In some seasons the berries are not so plump as at others, nor so deep a red, while the leaves are occasionally mottled a little in sliver or gold. Once in a great while the berries are pure white, but this is an abnormal and rare development. If it was sufficiently frequent to make such freaks a commodity, they would, no doubt, command a premium from "holly fanciers" who are able to gratify a taste for this sort thing.

No one can tell when holly was first used for Christmas decorating, though it was certainly at or soon after the Christian era. Indeed, it may have been long before, for some of the traditions concerning it have an appearance of antiquity about them which can is, or was, a sacred tree, to destroy which was to insure disease or disaster. An early 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 starving. No game could be discover, and in the midst of his distress a wild beast, the like of which he had never seen before, appeared. Taken by surprise he seized the bough of a tree, tore it off and prepared to defend himself with it. It chanced to he a holly tree, and the moment he distingued it he fell to the ground and was turned into a stone. His brother, after many months' searching, was informed by a friendly fairy of the mishap that had befallen his brother, whose body, he was told, would be found lying under the bough he had torn off. A charm was given the gearcher to enable him to restore the headstrong youth to life, and after a long journey the task was accomplished and the two brothers were reunited Legends such as these have been handed down from generation to generation, and in some of the most ignorant sections of England even now holly is seldom cut by day-light, and even after twilight the cutting is

done carefully and with as little destruction as possible. Both the practice and the caution are doubtless encouraged by the severity of the land owners, who are not partial to trespassing of any kind, and who drive off with little hesitation any "Christ-mas" cutters found on their premises. The actual tennants are supposed to have an as-sumed title to the holly-cutting, and the cottagers derive quite a good deal from the perquisite, often selling the bunches to their actual owners, as well as hawking them among the neighboring gentry and towns-

people.

Mistletoe is the rarest of the Christmas greens. A few bunches are purchased to hang in convenient places in parlors where the unsuspecting maiden will be most likely to find herself liable to the penalty which attaches to being caught under it, though it is but little used here for general decorations. The dealers have small stocks which are disposed of at the rate of five or six small sprays for a quarter, and this is about small sprays for a quarter, and this is about

IT COMES RATHER HIGH.

LATEST FROM 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.

Orchard & Wilhelm Carpet Co.

other holly or evergreen. It can not live ex cept by feeding upon the sap of another tree and hence it is generally high up above the ground, rendering the cutting process lengthy and tedious. In this country it is found in both north and south, generally on poplar and elm trees. It is gathered by local residents and by them sold to dealers, who ship it to trade centers. It is difficult to appraise a heap or load of mistletoe, for it is a commodity the cost of which is regulated almost exclusively by the laws of supply and

demand. Exceptionally severe Christmas weather reduces the supply and increases the demand, whereas a green Christmas is apt to bring down the price very considerably. A very popular decoration in Omaha is the evergreen "wreathing" which comes in bales like hay or cotton. This is chiefly composed of the price and sprice of the northern forof the pine and spruce of the northern for-ests, which is bound into long strips with light wire, and retailed at 10 cents per yard. Dealers generally are not particularly de-sirous of the trade in this commodity. They have to send a man or two to put it up, then a man to collect the bill, and by the time they get through, what little profit remains on the sale has been eaten up. Now that the big dry goods establishments have gone into the holiday decoration business, the small dealers find that their trade scarcely amounts to enough to pay them for their trouble. The greenhouse men find their greatest revenue in the sale of palms, ferns and other potted plants for decorative purposes. As

the holidays approach their stores are filled with plants, and most of them are disposed of by Christmas morning. A down town florist told a Bee reporter that he did not expect to have one left out of the immense bank of plants which filled one side of his store. Most of these are sold outright, but many of the larger and more expensive ones are rented for the holiday period, and then returned. There is considerable demand for these from the churches, most of which have their chancels and organ lofts banked with potted plants.

Lycophodium, sometimes known as "bouquet green," is a favorite decoration in the eastern cities, but there is almost entirely superseded by smilax, which is easier handled, and retains its attractiveness easier handled, and for a longer period.

AT THE THEATERS.

attraction at the Boyd theater for an engagement of three nights. Such announcement can be depended upon to arouse a far reaching interest among theater-goers, as it has been two years since this genial and popular actor was seen in this city.

Mr. Russell's position on the American stage is a very unique one; there is no other actor like him; his style is peculairly his own and there is a quaintness and dry-ness about it which defies imitation. His provoke plenty of genuine amusement as well as giving an insight into the pathetic side of life so vividly and realistically that the spectator very often finds his laughter checkmated by an incident so intensely human as to turn the tide of merriment into a serious channel.

The repertoire has been arranged in the fellowing order: Monday, "The Heir at Law;" Tuesday evening, "Peaceful Valley," and Wednesday evening, "A Poor Relation." The sale of seats will commence

No brighter or better farce comedy has ever been presented in this city than that performed by Freeman's company of fun makers under the title of "A Railroad Ticket" at the Fifteenth Street theater last season, and which will begin a six nights engagement at the new Empire theater starting with a matinee today. Special matinces will also be given on Tuesday (Christmas day) and Wednesday.

The company presenting the piece this

scason is entirely new, with the exception of those two funny fellows, Harry Porter and James T. Kelly. The newcomers are William Blaisfell, late principal comedian of the Pauline Hall Opera company; John P. Carroll, who played the opposite part to Bobby Gaylor in "Sport McAllister;" Frank Gardiner, a wonderfully clever grotesque dancer; Alice Carle, the handsome comic opera prima donna so long with the Carleton Opera company; Jeanette Bageard. scored a big hit at the New York Casino this past summer in "The Passing Show;" Hattle Waters, a vivacious soubrette, and Marie Bach of last season's company and Mrs. Louis Heck, jr., of this city.

Doubtless the fates spoiled a bad tragedian in making a famous comedian of Stuart Robson, for it is a fact not generally known that Mr. Robson's dearest wish at tragedy. Little did he dream at that time, before experience had plainly indicated to him the right road to choose, that he would one day share with that prince of actors, Joseph Jefferson, the highest honors the dramatic profession can afford—that he would become celebrated as the most hilariously eccentric exponent of the greatest comedy creations of Shakespeare, dan, Goldsmith and other master minds in English stage literature. At the Christmas matinee at Boyd's Mr. Robson will appear as Mr. Dionysius Dimple in Buckstone's comedy, "Leap Year." On tomorrow (Monday) evening Mr. Robson will open his engagement at the Boyd in

his famous character of Tony Lumpkin "She Stoops to Conquer," On Christr and Wednesday nights "The Henrietta" be the bill. No more delightful Christmas attraction than Mr. Robson and the full repertoire he will offer could be furnished the patrons of the Boyd. This (Sunday) evening Daniel Sully will

close his engagement at the Boyd by giv-ing the fourth performance of his new play, "O'Neil, Washington, D. C." This is one of the best plays that Mr. Sully has yet presented to the public, and his support is correspondingly good.

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 no other 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 we assure you that you will be more than pleased with the result.

NAGS ON THE LITTLE PAPPIO stepped out last fall and won five straight races driven by his farmer owner. Lucia

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

A CANCE FOR THE STALLION KINGDOM

Joe Patchen Skedaddles 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 nconsiderable moment and magnitude,

This farm is located just seven miles west of the city, and is accessible by either the Dodge street pike or Leavenworth street oad, lying between the two with the Little Pappio skirting its western borders. It is what is known as the old McArdle place, and embraces 200 acres of as lovely pasture land as lies outdoors. Mr. Briggs has expended both time and money unstintedly 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

The training stable is a model. Fashioned

after the most modern improvements of the big 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 finish is matched for six many original ideas of its live and enterslope of a slight acclivity, and commands a birdseye view of the whole farm, including the race track and hazel bordered meanderings of the river. It is a substantial frame building 196x88 feet in dimensions, and is building 196x88 feet in dimensions, and is supplied with every convenience that could be suggested or desired, with a spacious court in the center where the horses can be exercised on windy or inclement days without exposure. There are sixty-two stalls, thirty-two inside the main structure, and thirty without. All of these stalls have been built with an eye to the comfort of their built with an eye to the comfort of their occupants, with sealed walls, and an abundance of room and ventilation. In the building proper is a well appointed office, cart and ing proper is a wen appointed onnce, cart and carriage sheds, grain room, with its tiers of bins, harness room, and, in fact every concomitant to the great in-dustry into which Mr. Briggs has entered with such zeal and enthusiasm, and stock or norse men contemplating improvements on ney and gain much knowledge by making the place a visit. There is a voluminous nat ural spring bubbling from the hillside just east of the barn, and a system of piping con-ducts the pure fluid to all departments. The pulldings are substantial, and the board fend ing which surrounds the whole place has been painted a dull red, which contrasts well with the yellows and greens and browns of the autumn scenery.

At present Mr. Briggs has something lik forty head of horses, trotters and pacers, stallions, brood mares, yearlings and wean-lings, all combining in making as handsome nd as valuable a group as can be named in the whole western country. They are all under the intelligent charge of Charles Merriman, tried and true in the service, and his corps of assistants, and the person who imagines that the caring for a lot of valuable horses like this is a snap should spend part of a day at the Briggs farm and make a note At the head of Mr. Briggs' list, of course

stands that peerless trotting stallion, Alamito, who stands a good show in another year to return with the crown which now decorates Directum's sable brow. The possibilities for Alamito are limitless, as every well posted horseman in the country will admit. He is a magnificent roan, 5 years old, and was sired by Eagle Bird. He made his first race at the beginning of the season at Davenport. He was fresh from the stud, but her week was fresh from the stud, but beat such celeb-rities as Phoebe Wilkes, 2:08½, and Walter E, 2:10. Phoebe Wilkes won all the free-foralls after Alix hauled off last July. Alamito won this Davenport race in 2:1314, taking the third, fourth and fifth heats, the last one being made in 2:15. The betting on the third heat was 100 to 10 against the handsome roan, and there were some hard falls experienced by the all-wise touts on the track. Alamito has done his quarters in 2914 seconds, and with a galloper at his heels can reel off his mile in 2:10 any time. Newsboy, a dun gelding, is a horse of no mean pretensions, holding as he does a trot-ting mark of 2:20 and a pacing record of

2:12%. On trial he did a mile trotting in 2:151/2. Kate Caffrey, 2:1814, is by Charles Caffrey sire of Robbie P, dam Eva, by Tippo Bashaw and is the dam of more in the 2:30 list than

any mare in the state.

Nellie Cobb. 2:21¼, a beautiful seal brown, by Charles Caffrey, dam Julia, by Happy Medium. Julia is a full sister to the ex-stallion King Maxey Cobb, 2:13¾.

Charile Boggs is a stylish black fellow, and a full brother of Kate Caffrey, which is speaking volumes in his favor. He worked a mile in 2:17 in his three-year-old form, and is indisputably the fastest horse in America. without an exception, without a mark. He can step his mile in 2:10, and the green horse that can beat him has not yet faced the public.

Fred P. is one of the Charles Caffrey strain, and to a high-wheel sulky he made a record of 2:45½ as a yearling, which was the state record.

Mesa is a beautiful yearling by Alamito, Mesa is a beautiful yearling by Alamito, dam Kate Caffrey, a speed inheritance that is bound to aggert itself. In looks this filly would be hard to match.

Hurly Burly, 2:16½, by Rumor, dam Lucia, by Jay Gould. Lucia is one of the brood mares in histroy, having six in the list. Hurly Burly can step off his mile in 2:12. He is the sire of Wilbur, a green horse who

stepped out last fall and won five straight races driven by his farmer owner. Lucia, Hurly Burly's dam, died a few menths ago, but when 14 years old brought \$2,000. His grandsire, George M. Patchem, was four times stallion king, 2:23%, and is one of the most royally bred horses in America. No gamer animal ever looked through a bridle, and during all of the last campaign he was never behind the money until he went lame and was sent home. During the season he lowered his record from 2:19% to 2:16%. He is a race horse, every inch of him.

Topsy Turvey is a Hurly Burly colt, a beauty and a natural trotter, the consequence

beauty and a natural trotter, the consequence of his superb breeding. He steps across the lot almost daily at a 2:30 clip.

There is a large number of yearlings and weaning colts on the farm, the get of Alamito and Hurly Burly, that are sufficient to make any horsemals are sufficient. to make any horseman's eyes water. The list of brood mares is a large one, and con-tains some of the very best in the country.

Among these are such mares as ! Eva, dam of Kate Caffrey, 2:18¼; Eddle Hayes, 2:22; Mollie G., 2:28; McFarland, 1:29¼; McShane, 2:31½; Charlie Boggs, 2:17

Eva is the greatest producing mare in the state of Nebraska. Mollie G., 2:28:

Nellie Cobb, 2:214. Carrara by Hinder Wilkes, dam Revenna y Princeps. Revenna is the dam of Glycera, Moneta by Monwood, dam Streamlet by

Moneta by Monwood, dam Streamlet by Grand Sentinel, 2:27¼; second, by Happy Medlum; third, by Membrino Patchen.
Burlytina by Hurly Burly, 2:16; dam Maratina by Slander; second dam by Gen. Knox.
Pepita by Anteros, dam Mollie G., 2:28.
Auburn Maid by Red Wing, dam Jennie.
Jennie is the dam of two in the lot.
Lena Cobb by Hurly Burly, dam Kate Cobb.
Kate Cobb is by Maxie Cobb.

The match race between Joe Patchen and Ryland T, which was scheduled for Kansas City last Thursday, failed to come cff. Joe Patchen was shipped to Los Angeles Tues-day, much to the disgust of the local horsemen. The excuse advanced was that Fatchen

with Robert J in California.

Four trotters and five pacers go into win ter quarters after having beaten the race records of the best animals of their age. season as king of pacers, while Alix, 2:03% carries off similar honors among the tretters. The latter includes Abdell, the yearling, by Advertiser, with a record of 2:23. This Call-fornia youngster: is said to be in fine fettle and something sensational is anticipated and something sensational is anti-ipated from him next season. Oakland Baron, a 2-year-old colt by Baron Wilkes, has the honors in his class at 2:14½, while Hamlin's 4-year-old daughter of Chimes, the long-legged Fantasy, has 2:06 to her credit. The other champions among the pacers are: Directly (2), 2:07½; Sidmont (3), 2:10½, and Online (4), 2:04. The wonderful strides being made by harness horses is well shown by the list of performers that have gone miles the list of performers that have gone miles in 2:10 or better. It was in 1839 that a pacer knewn as Drover, of unknown breeding, went that it was generally discredited. In 1845 the gray mare, Lady Suffolk, with a saddle record of 2:26, trotted a full mile in 2:26, and great was her fame. There were not wanting those who firmly believed and expressed the conviction that no one would

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 1873, 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%. Up to 1884, ten years ago, two horses had beaten 2:10. The trotter was the great Maud S, and her record was 2:0914, while the pacers of a day at the Briggs farm and make a note had Johnson to represent them with 2:06%. At that day the young champions at the trot

Dick Chandler, one of the cleverest and most popular reinsmen of the day, has been in the city since Tuesday. Dick may be found at the head of Clinton H. Hriggs' sta-

Old Bob Kneebs, a well known horseman informs me, is not on his way to this country after all. He has been released on bail, but is kept under such close police surveil-lance that it will be impossible for him to get away from Berlin.

WHAT A PITY.

Harvard Lampoon.
We had paused to watch the quiver
Of faint moonbeams on the river,
By the gate. We had heard something calling, And a heavy dew is falling, Yet we wait,

It is no doubt very silly
To stay out in all this chilly
Evening mist,
Still I linger, hesitating,
For her lips are plainly waiting
To be kissed.

So I stooped to take possession Of the coveted concession On the spot. But she draws back with discreetness Saying, with tormenting sweetness; "I guess not."

Her whole manner is provoking.
"O, well, I was only joking,"
I reply.
She looks penitently pretty,
As she answers: "What a pity!
So was I."

Oregon Kidney Tea cures all kidney troubles. Trial size, 25 cents. All druggists.

leans finds that Andy Bowen came to his death by violently colliding with an un-padded floor. The future safety of the mauling art demands that the floors put on gloves