

## THE RULING PASSION.

Speed the Magic Word on the Road of Life and Success.

Speed is the ruling idea of the age. Even the traveler in search of health is in a hurry, and insists on combining the excitement of a march against Time with the pursuit of Hygeia. Fifteen miles an hour over the surface of a glorious river, winding through the finest scenery in the world, does not satisfy the man of leisure on a summer excursion. He prefers a straight rush through seas of dust and a storm of cinders at three times the pace. He voys the steamboat a "slow coach," and takes the express train, from which he can distinguish no feature of the vanishing landscape as it streams to the rear, and thinks his stars that he is darting over the earth's surface at a rate which renders its beauties indistinguishable.

But perhaps, after all, the passion for rapid motion is no stronger now than before steam was put in harness. The human race is naturally prone to velocity. Nothing in the story of Jack the Giant-killer delights children so much as the episode of the seven-leaved boats, and we remember the flying carpet and aerial steed of the Arabian Nights' Entertainments, when all the "flower" results of enchantment are forgotten. Sixty years ago a carriage and four was considered a spirit-stirring arrangement, and post-boys were feed munificently to keep their cattle on the gallop. The liberality of the old woman who offered her bacon to feed the furnace of a Mississippi steamboat when its rivel was getting ahead was prompted by the same instinct which moved our ancestors to bribe the postillions of today to plow the whip and spur.

It is useless to reason against the general desire to push ahead. It is human nature. All the resources of art and science are laid under contribution to accomplish this grand object, and the most wonderful of all modern wonders is the progress of progression. A voyage across the Atlantic was a six or eight weeks' affair within the recollection of some of us; but now, steamers occasionally slip over in from six to eight days!

And speed is the word on the Road of Life as on the public highways. From the universal anxiety of the active classes to make the most of every moment, one might suppose that the clock of Time was pretty near its final tick, and that mankind, aware of the fact, were afraid of being caught at the great *suo die* adjournment of human affairs with some unfinished business on their hands.—*M. V. Ledger*.

## UNCLE SAM'S WHITE-WASH.

The Mixture Used to Shine Up the Light-Houses on the Coast.

Excursionists who travel along the sea-coast in summer are often attracted by the remarkable whiteness of the light-houses, beacons and keepers' dwellings, and they wonder how these guides to the mariner are kept in such a shining condition during the winter as well as summer. The material used is simply white-wash, and here is the United States Government formula for mixing a white-wash that when properly made and applied gives a white that does not easily wash or rub off:

To ten parts of fresh yolked lime add one part of the best hydraulic cement. Mix well with salt water and apply quite thin."

Sylvester's process for excluding moisture from external walls consists in using two washes or solutions for covering the surface of brick walls, one composed of soap and water and one of alum and water. The proportions are three-quarters of a pound of soap to one gallon of water and half a pound of alum to four gallons of water. Both substances must be perfectly dissolved in water before using. The walls should be perfectly clean and dry, and the temperature of the air should not be below fifty degrees Fahrenheit when the compositions are applied. The first, or soap wash, should be laid on when at boiling heat with a flat brush, taking care not to form a froth on the brick-work. This wash should remain twenty-four hours, so as to become dry and hard before the second, or alum wash, is applied, which should be done in the same manner as the first.

The temperature of this wash when applied may be sixty degrees or seventy degrees, and it should also remain twenty-four hours before a second coat of the soap-wash is put on, and these coats are to be repeated alternately until the walls are made impervious to water. The alum and soap thus combined form an insoluble compound, filling the pores of the masonry, and entirely preventing the water from penetrating the walls. Four coatings will render bricks impervious.—*N. J. Sam.*

## SCHOOL AND CHURCH.

The Anti-Sunday Traveling Union has existed in this country for about four years, and it has now about 6,000 enrolled members.

Twenty-eight thousand of the 37,000 new members added to the New York Baptist churches in the past eight years came from the Sunday-schools.

The "union" formed among the "evangelical" population of Holland for the establishment of what are known as Bible schools has now 411 such schools, with 71,000 scholars, representing a capital of \$2,000,000.

Before Christianity entered India lepers were treated with shocking inhumanity. Many of them were buried alive. The English rulers have put a stop to this custom, and for fourteen years there has been a special Christian mission to the 1,000,000 lepers in India.

The Old Testament Student says Jesus Della's Hebrew translation of the New Testament is having a wonderful circulation among the Jews. In less than ten years over 1,000 copies have been sold, mainly among the Jews of Austria and South America. The emigrant missionaries in Liverpool and New York have found others among the emigrating Jews a hundred of copies.

—Here are two young men who are practical Christians, and apparently worthy of their high calling. One is Perry S. Grant, rector of an Episcopal church at Fall River. He has many mill-people in his parish, and is so much interested in his work among them that he has declined flattering offers from this city and from Boston and Providence. The other is Doctor Perkins, of a little Episcopal parish near Salem, N. J. He gives his services without pay, and recently when his people made up a tithes purse for him he refused it, saying that he had all the money that he needed, and that it should be used for the improvement of the church.

Eight text books have been published by the State of California for use in her public schools, and it is designed in a few years to supplant all the books published by private concerns. The best talent among the local educators is employed in writing these books and there are no middle men. The State grammar is sold for 50 cents, a reduction of 25 cents on the grammar formerly in use. The price of the general history is 80 cents, instead of \$1.25 under the old system. The other books are proportionately reduced. A small per cent of the money received for these books is invested in a sinking fund and it is estimated that in twelve years the publication department will have paid for its plant and will then be self-supporting. The books thus far issued are highly spoken of by most of the teachers.

## PREPARING RAISINS.

The Three Principal Ways of Drying Grapes for the Market.

Malaga, Valencia and Smyrna raisins derive their names from the places whence they come. Of these, the Smyrna black raisins are the cheapest; the Malaga being held in the highest estimation and fetching fully a third more than any other description of raisins.

The growth of the vines in Spain is different from those of Italy. In Andalusia they creep along the surface of the ground as strawberries do, thus gathering all the atmospheric heat, the bunches appear like roots, and the grapes, though white, have a golden tinge. The vintage is very carefully conducted, the fruit not all being gathered at once, but the same ground gone over three times, so that all the grapes are properly ripe when picked. As they are gathered they are placed in baskets, and carried, either in carts or on the backs of mules and donkeys, to the place where they undergo the drying process. The fruit, however, is often much injured in transit; and as no broken grapes can be properly dried, the loss from this cause is considerable.

The grapes are prepared for the market in three different ways—by simply drying in the sun, by washing, and by steam-drying. In following the first mentioned, which is the general process in Malaga, divisions are constructed of either brick or stone, in an inclined position, exposed to the sun's rays. These divisions are built in at one end with a triangle formed of masonry, and so arranged that the sun always shines on their contents. The interior of these compartments is thickly spread with fine gravel to absorb the heat. As soon as the grapes are gathered they are put into these divisions, and are fully exposed to the intense heat of the Andalusian sun. It is stated by experienced cultivators that during the month of August they attain a temperature of a hundred and forty degrees Fahrenheit.

While drying, the grapes which remain green are carefully picked out, as they are spoiled; the others are turned, each grape singly, so that the proper uniformity of color is observed. At night the fruit is protected from the heavy dews or rain by stout canvas being stretched over the tops of the divisions. Some people use blankets instead. Grapes take a longer time drying in this manner than by the scalding plan, as then they are ready in four days; but dried only by the sun's heat, they take ten days. This loss of time, however, is fully compensated by the economy of the process.

Drying by washing and drying by steam are inferior to the sun-drying process, because they are more expensive, involving outlay in buildings, furnaces and steam-pipes; and the raisins are, moreover, liable to the danger of fermentation during their transportation. Besides, they always have to be dried in the sun for a certain time before being ready to pack, whatever plan is pursued in curing them other than the sun-drying process.

When the drying is thoroughly accomplished by whatever plan pursued, the raisins, prior to being packed for exportation, require to be carefully looked over, and all those broken and bruised ones removed, as a drop of moisture from such would very likely damage a whole box. After this comes the proper classification, by no means an easy affair, as merchants and cultivators differ, often very materially, on this subject.

The boxes are generally made by contract. The best are made from fir wood, which is imported from Portugal. The producer provides and packs these boxes, which the merchants frequently repack, employing women and girls to perform this office. The boxes are generally divided into layers. Four layers will be contained in a whole box, representing, if of full size, about 22 pounds of fruit; the total weight with the filled box being from 20 to 29 pounds.

Besides the raisins already named, may be mentioned Sultanas, Muscatelles, Lipari, Belvedere, Bloom or jarraisins, and sun or Solis. The best kinds are imported in boxes and jars—such as Malaga and Muscatelles—while the inferior sorts are shipped in cans and barrels, tins and mats. —*Golden Days.*

## MARY'S LITTLE LAMB.

The Cincinnati Leader to the Pro-Cremonians Leading to the Pro-Cremonians Song.

The authorship of "Mary Had a Little Lamb" has been ascribed to various persons, and many romantic stories have been told regarding its composition. To Mrs. Hale's family the Times is indebted for the following account of the circumstances which

led to its production: "In 1827 Dr. Lowell Mason was induced to lend his musical talents to Boston, and while there gave especial attention to the training of children in vocal music, being the first person to introduce singing into the public schools. In order to make these singing classes attractive, Dr. Mason requested Mrs. Sarah J. Hale and other writers to furnish him with verses suited to the capacity of children and of a kind to interest them. In response to this request, Mrs. Hale, ever ready to lend a hand in any good work, composed a series of little poems for children, which were set to music by Mr. Mason, and sung in the schools of Boston and afterward throughout the country. Among these was the world-famous 'Mary's Lamb,' which was founded on an incident of the writer's own childhood experience. A farmer's daughter, she had had in her New Hampshire home her own little pet lamb, that followed her wherever she went. Devoted fond of animals, and making pets of them from her earliest to her latest years, this busy editor and mother of a family turned aside from her pressing cares to write these verses, which have a sympathetic echo in the hearts of children all over this country. In 1830 the poems thus composed were published in book form under Mrs. Hale's signature, with a number of other songs and rhymes affectionately dedicated to all good children in the United States."—*Philadelphia Times.*

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## Wood Wanted.

A few cords of wood wanted on account of the present scarcity.

## BURNING ROUTE B & M R.R.

Denver to Chicago,  
Denver to Kansas City,  
Denver to Omaha,  
Omaha to Chicago,  
Kansas City to Chicago,  
Omaha to St. Louis.

## CHILDREN'S APPETITES.

Some Sound Advice on a Matter of More Than Ordinary Importance.

While some children eat daintily and seem to know when they have enough, there are others who eat ravenously at the table and seem to be eating all the time between meals. This, I think, is an unnatural state of things. Animals in their youthful days are inclined to over-eat, but an animal worth raising is carefully guarded so that it does not over-eat. Should not these children be as carefully watched as animals? It is too often a habit acquired by being easy of access, or over-indulgent parents, who, as soon as a child frets, give it something to eat to pacify it, until from an over-loaded stomach it is fretful and cross, and the more it eats the more uncomfortable it becomes.

I could not help contrast the manner of a very rich lady with her three boys with that of others I have seen since. They have a very comfortable breakfast at seven o'clock in the morning, lunch at twelve, which usually consisted of potatoes, rice, cold sliced meat, milk, bread and butter; at five o'clock a plate piled high with sliced bread and butter and three glasses of water were carried to the nursery, and they were allowed to eat all they wanted of it; at half-past five the two youngest, aged five and seven, were put to bed; the oldest, nine years old, was allowed to be up till seven.

The family dinner was at six, and if the dessert was a light pudding, fruit and nuts, occasionally the boys were allowed to come down to dessert, but retired as soon as it was over. Do you never allow them a piece between meals?" I asked the mother one day.

"Oh, yes, there are some crusts of bread on a shelf by the nursery door that they can have whenever they are hungry."