

## APPLE BLOSSOMS.

In the springtime, bright and breezy,  
On a May day, clear and fair,  
Stood a bonnie maiden, smiling,  
With the sunshine on her hair.  
And her eyes were lifted upward  
To the blossoms overhead,  
With a happy look of wonder;  
Joyous were the words she said:

"Apple blossoms, apple blossoms,  
O, I know and know it well,  
As you're swaying just above me,  
Something sweet you have to tell.  
Can you guess of whom I'm dreaming,  
Guess the name I dare not speak?"  
All the pink within the blossoms  
Was reflected on her cheek.

Clustered branches bent around her,  
Waiting buds hung o'er her way,  
While her joy was shyly whispered  
To the flowers of the May.

"Apple blossoms, apple blossoms,  
How your fragrance fills the air!  
Just as love, so true and tender,  
Maketh all my life most fair."

When again upon the blossoms  
Gazed the pretty little maid  
Fled were blush and smile of greeting,  
Sad her eyes with pensive shade.  
As in plaintive tone she murmured,  
"It was all a dream. Ah me!"  
Silently, the white leaves downward  
Fell like tear drops from the tree.

Roguish Cupid oft lies hidden  
In an orchard's charming maze;  
But his arrows aimed through flowers  
Youthful hearts will only graze.  
Springtime love so oft, like blossoms,  
Short-lived, lingers but to die,  
Like the petals, off it flutters  
When a fitful breeze blows by.

—MARY FRENCH MORTON.

## GOOD ROADS.

In California the roads are gradually improving because of a law to which the attention of the permanent citizens of Nebraska is now called. Whether similar legislation for this state would be beneficial is a question worth thinking about. Having a great dread of lawns and meadows cut up and gullied out by narrow tires the writer some years ago had a four-inch tire wagon made by the Studebaker's, for use at Arbor Lodge. And the experience and its results are entirely satisfactory.

The following is the law of California in relation to wagon tires passed by the legislature of 1897:

"The width of tires for wheels upon wagons or other vehicles to be used upon the public highways of the state of California shall be for the following styles of wagons as follows:

"Two and three-quarter inch steel or thimble-skein axle,  $1\frac{7}{8}$  inch tubular steel or iron axle, not less than 3-inch tire;  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch steel or iron axle,  $2\frac{1}{8}$  inch tubular or iron axle, not less than  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inch tire; 3 inch steel or thimble skein,  $1\frac{5}{8}$  inch steel or iron,  $2\frac{3}{8}$  tubular steel or iron axle, not less than 4-inch tire;  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inch steel or thimble skein,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  or  $1\frac{7}{8}$  steel or iron,  $2\frac{5}{8}$  tubular steel or iron axle, not less than  $4\frac{1}{2}$ -inch tire;

$3\frac{1}{2}$  inch steel or thimble skein, 2-inch steel or iron,  $2\frac{7}{8}$  inch tubular steel or iron axle, not less than 5-inch tire;  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inch steel or thimble skein,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inch steel or iron, 3 or  $2\frac{1}{8}$  inch tubular steel or iron axle, not less than  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inch tire; 4 inch and larger steel or thimble skein,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inch and larger steel or iron,  $3\frac{1}{4}$ -inch, and larger tubular steel or iron axle, not less than 6-inch tire."

Other styles of axles shall have tires of the same width as those of equal carrying capacity above enumerated. All intermediate axles shall have tires of the same width as the next larger size above specified.

OLD BOOKS—  
BIG PRICES.

The first printing press was brought into England by a merchant named Caxton, who forsook his trade to enjoy the favor of the duchess of Burgundy, sister of Edward IV of England, and in 1476 imported from Germany a printing outfit, which he established in a building adjoining Westminster Abbey, especially for the purpose of publishing his translation of the history of Troy (Recueil des Histoires de Troyes.) It was the first English book ever printed, and in 1885 a copy was sold by the earl of Jersey to Bernard Quaritch, in London, for \$9,100.

The next book printed in England was "The Game and Playe of Ye Chesse." Copies have been sold as high as \$1,300. The first English book both written and printed in England (1489) was "Dictes and Sayings of the Philosophers," of which only four copies are known. One of them was sold last year by the earl of Ashburnham for \$7,600.

The first book printed in America was "Doctrina Christiana," by Juan Cromberger in the City of Mexico in 1559. So far as known there is not a copy in existence. The second was "Doctrina Breve," by Juan Zumarraga, the first bishop of Mexico. It was printed by Cromberger in 1543, and copies have sold as high as \$2,200.

The first book printed in the United States was an almanac at Cambridge in 1639 by Stephen Daye, who established the first printing press in this country. The second publication was a slip containing a poem entitled, "The Freeman's Oath." The next book was a metrical version of the Psalms called the "Bay State Psalm Book," in 1640. Copies are very rare. It is one of the most valuable books in the world.

The first edition of "The Canterbury Tales," printed by Caxton, of which only two copies are known, has sold for \$5,000, \$5,100 and \$9,400.

The first edition of Robinson Crusoe (1719) sells for \$225. The first editions of Izaak Walton's Compleat Angler (1653) have sold for \$2,075. The first edition of the Vicar of Wakefield,

printed in 1766, sold for \$300; the first edition of Paradise Lost for \$450; the first edition of Milton's complete works containing a presentation inscription on a fly leaf in his handwriting, \$1,150.

The highest price paid for a book last year was \$10,500, by Pickering & Chatto of London, for Raoul le Fevre's "A Boke of the Hool Lyfe of Jason," printed by Caxton in 1490 in black letter. It is one of the earliest books in the English language and formerly belonged to Bishop Heber. Some biographical details on the fly leaf in his handwriting greatly increase its value. A copy of Captain John Smith's "True Relation," printed in 1608, sold for \$1,425.

The highest price paid for an American book last year was \$1,000 for a copy of the Rev. Mr. Cushman's sermon on "The Danger of Self-Love," which was preached at Boston shortly after the settlement of that place. It is the only copy known of the first sermon printed in America.

## SILENCED BY LINCOLN'S WORDS.

Professor Laughlin of Chicago university was asked to meet a number of imperialists at dinner at the Union League club there a day or two ago, and he took along with him this quotation from Lincoln's writings:

"No man is good enough to govern another without that other's consent. When the white man governs himself, that is self-government; but when he governs himself and also governs another man, that is more than self-government—that is despotism. Our reliance is in the love of liberty which God has planted in us: our defence is in the spirit which prizes liberty as the heritage of all men in all lands, everywhere. Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves, and under a just God cannot long retain it."

When the discussion was well under way the professor whipped out the quotation and passed it around the table. All were republicans, and it is stated that the face of each one was a study as he read Lincoln's words. Some doubted the genuineness of the quotation, and when proof was forthcoming there was silence.—Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

## HAS BEEN HERE.

In Answer: The Prince of Wales landed at St. John July 24, 1860, for his American tour. He remained on Canadian soil for several weeks. While in the United States he visited Chicago, St. Louis, New York, Boston and several other prominent cities. He was met at Washington by President Buchanan and visited the several departments of the government. He also visited the tomb of Washington at Mount Vernon. When his mother abdicates he will become king of England.